

Lawyers for Trump seek to punish porn star in court fines

By BRIAN MELLEY
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lawyers for President Donald Trump asked a court Monday for nearly \$800,000 in lawyers' fees and penalties from porn actress Stormy Daniels for a failed defamation lawsuit against him. Attorney Charles Harder defended ringing up a nearly \$390,000 legal bill for the president and asked for an equal amount in sanc-

tions as a deterrent against a "repeat filer of frivolous defamation cases." Judge S. James Otero didn't immediately rule. He noted that fees by Harder's firm — as high as \$840 an hour — were reasonable but the 580 hours spent on the case appeared to be excessive and might be trimmed in his eventual award.

Continued on Page 3



Charles Harder, attorney for President Donald Trump, speaks to reporters outside federal court in Los Angeles Monday, Nov. 3, 2018.

Associated Press



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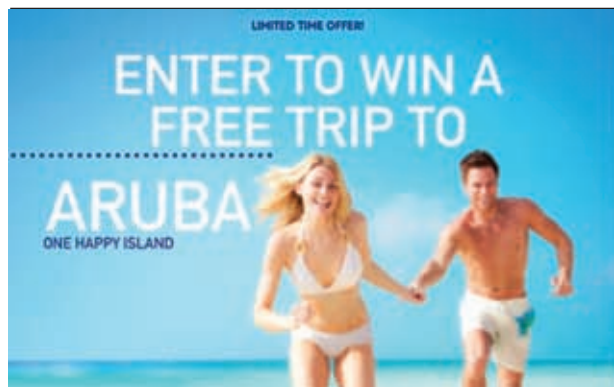


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Trump praises witness who refuses to testify against him

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO** and **ERIC TUCKER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump praised a key witness in the Russia investigation Monday for having the "guts" not to testify against him, and said his former lawyer — who cut a deal with prosecutors — should head straight to prison.

In a pair of politically charged tweets, Trump made clear that he is closely watching those who turn on him in the special counsel's probe, which has ensnared some of the president's closest advisers. So far, five people in Trump's orbit have pleaded guilty to federal charges.

The tweets add to mounting questions about wheth-

er Trump is taking steps to improperly influence witnesses in an investigation that has enraged him and shadowed his administration. Some legal experts, though, say they may not amount to witness tampering if Trump didn't directly tell others what to say or not say.

Trump already has come under scrutiny from critics who fear he may use his executive power to protect himself as well as friends and supporters. Last week, Trump told the New York Post that a pardon for his former campaign chairman Paul Manafort was not off the table.

Prosecutors say Manafort torpedoed his plea deal with special counsel Robert Mueller by repeatedly lying



Michael Cohen walks out of federal court, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018, in New York, after pleading guilty to lying to Congress about work he did on an aborted project to build a Trump Tower in Russia.

Associated Press

to them, although Manafort denies that he lied.

In one of Monday's tweets, Trump took aim at Michael Cohen, his former personal attorney who once grandly declared he would "take a bullet" for the president but ultimately took a plea deal. Cohen pleaded guilty last week to lying to Congress about negotiations he had on Trump's behalf for a real estate deal in Moscow.

Though he told lawmakers the talks were done by January 2016, he admitted they actually lasted as late as June — after Trump had clinched the Republican nomination and after Russians had penetrated Democratic email accounts for communications later released through WikiLeaks. Cohen said he lied out of loyalty to Trump, who insisted throughout the campaign that he had no business dealings in Russia, and to be consistent with his political messaging.

On Monday, Trump ripped into Cohen on Twitter.

"You mean he can do all of the TERRIBLE, unrelated to Trump, things having to do with fraud, big loans, Taxis, etc., and not serve

a long prison term?" Trump added that Cohen "makes up stories to get a GREAT & ALREADY reduced deal for himself."

Trump added: "He lied for this outcome and should, in my opinion, serve a full and complete sentence."

Minutes later, Trump lavished praise on his former campaign adviser Roger Stone. Mueller's prosecutors are investigating Stone to learn whether he had advance knowledge of WikiLeaks' plans to release hacked material damaging to Hillary Clinton's presidential effort.

Trump lauded Stone for saying he'd never testify against the president.

"This statement was recently made by Roger Stone, essentially stating that he will not be forced by a rogue and out of control prosecutor to make up lies and stories about 'President Trump,'" he tweeted. "Nice to know that some people still have 'guts!'"

Stone then posted a screenshot of Trump's tweet with a caption that said he was proud of their 40-year relationship and "prouder still of the amazing job he

is doing making America Great Again!"

Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, said Trump's tweet was inappropriate.

"The President of the United States should not be using his platform to influence potential witnesses in a federal investigation involving his campaign," Warner said in a tweet.

Stone said the idea that Trump's tweet amount to witness tampering is "hysterical."

"I'm not a witness to any proceeding," he said.

David Weinstein, a former Justice Department prosecutor in Florida, said he was surprised by Trump's comments Monday, but didn't believe the tweets alone rose to the level of obstruction or witness tampering because Trump did not explicitly tell anyone what to say or not to say. Subjects of an investigation can still communicate to others entangled in a probe, and though they can encourage them to tell the truth, they cannot coach them to lie, he said.

"What he seems to be saying is that people who continue to show support for him, in some way, may be rewarded for that support," Weinstein said. "I don't think it rises to the level of obstruction yet, but it certainly would cause people who are conducting the investigation to start asking questions about whether or not the target has reached out to them." Trump's message had an immediate effect on supporters. His remarks prompted Michael Caputo, the president's former campaign aide and a longtime Stone friend, to launch a "GoFundMe" account to help pay Stone's mounting legal fees. □

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COURT FINES

Continued from Front

He didn't indicate how he felt about the requested penalties, but had questioned whether attorneys' fees alone would serve as a deterrent.

Harder had not put a dollar figure on sanctions he was seeking before the hearing and Daniels' attorney Michael Avenatti objected vehemently, calling it "absurd and outrageous."

"You can't just pick a number out of thin air in an effort to put my client under Donald Trump's thumb and intimidate her," Avenatti said.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, alleges she had a one-night affair with Trump in 2006. She sued him earlier this year seeking to break a non-disclosure agreement she signed days before the 2016 election about the tryst as part of a \$130,000 hush money settlement. Trump has denied the affair, but essentially acknowledged the payment to Daniels.

Despite the deal to stay quiet, Daniels spoke out publicly and alleged that five years after the affair she was threatened to keep quiet by a man she did not recognize in a Las Vegas parking lot. She also released a composite sketch of the mystery man. She sued Trump for defamation after he responded to the allegation by tweet-

ing: "A sketch years later about a nonexistent man. A total con job, playing the Fake News Media for Fools (but they know it)!"

Otero ruled in October that Trump's statement was "rhetorical hyperbole" against a political adversary and was protected speech under the First Amendment.

Although the lawsuit didn't get far before Otero tossed it, he said it was a "one of a kind" case that demanded a fair bit of legal work.

"Given a case of this magnitude, you have to err on the side of being thorough," Otero said.

Daniels has appealed Otero's decision and Avenatti said Monday he expects to prevail at a higher court.

Avenatti, who has positioned himself as a Trump foe and is considering a run for president in 2020, also said he will be seeking attorney's fees against Trump in the ongoing hush money case and he anticipates being awarded a figure that "dwarfs exponentially" what Trump is seeking in the defamation case, possibly exceeding \$2 million.

Trump's lead attorney said the fees and unspecified monetary sanctions were earned because of the extraordinary nature of the defamation case and because of Avenatti's gamesmanship.

"This action is virtually unprecedented in American



In this Oct. 11, 2018, file photo, adult film actress Stormy Daniels arrives for the opening of the adult entertainment fair "Venus," in Berlin.

Associated Press

legal history," Harder wrote in court papers. Daniels "not only brought a meritless claim for defamation against the sitting president of the United States, but she also has engaged, along with her attorney, in massive national publicity." In a related case in which Daniels has alleged that her former lawyer, Keith Davidson, colluded with Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen to have her publicly deny the affair with Trump, Avenatti and Co-

hen's lawyer briefly traded accusations Monday in the hallway of a Santa Monica courthouse.

Standing nose-to-nose with attorney Brent Blakely, Avenatti told him he represented a felon. Blakely shot back that Avenatti is a felon. Avenatti said he's never been convicted of a crime. Cohen has pleaded guilty to several felonies and admitted funneling money to Daniels to keep her quiet about an affair she has said she had with Trump.

Avenatti was arrested last month on suspicion of domestic violence.

Prosecutors declined bringing felony charges against Avenatti. They are investigating whether he should face a misdemeanor charge for allegations he roughed up a girlfriend. Avenatti has denied wrongdoing. The Cohen and Davidson lawsuit in Los Angeles County Superior Court has been put on hold, though a hearing is scheduled May 22. □

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At Capitol, Bush saluted as 'gentle soul,' 'great man'

By CALVIN WOODWARD,
LAURIE KELLMAN and
ASHRAF KHALIL

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's capital embraced George H.W. Bush in death Monday with solemn ceremony and high tributes to his service and decency, as the remains of the 41st president took their place in the Capitol rotunda for three days of mourning and praise by the political elite and everyday citizens alike.

With Bush's casket atop the Lincoln Catafalque, first used for Abraham Lincoln's 1865 funeral, dignitaries came forward to honor the Texan whose efforts for his country extended three quarters of a century from World War II through his final years as an advocate for volunteerism and relief for people displaced by natural disaster.

President from 1989 to 1993, Bush died Friday at age 94. In an invocation opening Monday evening's ceremony, the U.S. House chaplain, the Rev. Patrick J. Conroy, praised Bush's commitment to public service, from Navy pilot to congressman, U.N. ambassador, envoy to China and then CIA director before being elected vice president and then president.

"Here lies a great man," said Rep. Paul Ryan, the House speaker, and "a gentle soul. ... His legacy is grace perfected."

Vice President Mike Pence and Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell also spoke.

But political combatants set aside their fights to honor a Republican who led in a less toxic time and at times found commonality with Democrats despite sharp policy disagreements. Democratic Rep.



Former President George W. Bush, Laura Bush, left, and other family members watch as the flag-draped casket of former President George H.W. Bush is carried by a joint services military honor guard to lie in state in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol, Monday, Dec. 3, 2018, in Washington.

Associated Press

Nancy Pelosi, past and incoming House speaker, exchanged a warm hug with George W. Bush and came away dabbing her face. Bush himself seemed to be holding back tears.

Pelosi and Chuck Schumer, the Senate Democratic leader, placed wreaths in the short ceremony before the rotunda was to be opened to the public. It was to remain open overnight.

Sent off from Texas with a 21-gun salute, Bush's casket was carried to Joint Base Andrews outside the capital city aboard an aircraft that often serves as Air Force One and designated "Special Air Mission 41" in honor of Bush's place on the chronological list of presidents.

Cannon roared again outside the Capitol as the sun sank and his eldest son, former President George W. Bush, stood with his hand over his heart, watching the casket's procession up the steps.

Bush was remembered just feet away from what he called "Democracy's front porch," the west-facing steps of the Capitol where he was sworn in as president.

He will lie in state in the Capitol for public visitation through Wednesday. An invitation-only funeral service is set for Wednesday at Washington National Cathedral. President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump are to attend. Although Bush's funeral services are suffused with the flourishes accorded presidents, by his choice they will not include a formal funeral procession through downtown Washington.

The younger President Bush, his wife, Laura, and others from the family traveled on the flight from Houston.

On Sunday, students, staff and visitors had flocked to Bush's presidential library on the campus of Texas A&M University, with thousands of mourners paying their respects at a weekend can-

dlelight vigil at a nearby pond and others contributing to growing flower memorials at Bush statues at both the library and a park in downtown Houston.

"I think he was one of the kindest, most generous men," said Marge Frazier, who visited the downtown statue on Sunday while showing friends from California around.

After services in Washington, Bush will be returned to Houston to lie in repose at St. Martin's Episcopal Church before burial Thursday at his family plot on the library grounds. His final resting place will be alongside Barbara Bush, his wife of 73 years who died in April, and Robin Bush, the daughter they lost to leukemia in 1953 at age 3.

Trump has ordered the federal government closed Wednesday for a national day of mourning. Flags on public buildings are flying at half-staff for 30 days out of respect for Bush.

Trump, who has not al-

ways uttered kind words about the Bush family, offered nothing but praise in the hours after the former president's death was announced.

"He was just a high-quality man who truly loved his family," Trump said Saturday while in Argentina. "One thing that came through loud and clear, he was very proud of his family and very much loved his family. So he was a terrific guy and he'll be missed."

Bush's passing puts him back in the Washington spotlight after more than two decades living the relatively low-key life of a former president. His death also reduces membership in the ex-presidents' club to four: Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

One of Bush's major achievements was assembling the international military coalition that liberated the tiny, oil-rich nation of Kuwait from invading neighbor Iraq in 1991. The war lasted just 100 hours. He also presided over the end of the Cold War between the United States and the former Soviet Union.

A humble hero of World War II, Bush was just 20 when he survived being shot down during a bombing run over a Japanese island. He had joined the Navy when he turned 18.

Shortly before leaving the service, he married his 19-year-old sweetheart, Barbara Pierce, and forged the longest presidential marriage in U.S. history. Bush enrolled at Yale University after military service, becoming a scholar-athlete and captaining the baseball team to two College World Series before graduating Phi Beta Kappa after just 2½ years. □



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D.C., Md. officials ready with subpoenas in Trump hotel case

By TAMI ABDOLLAH
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The attorneys general of the District of Columbia and Maryland said Monday that they are moving forward with subpoenas for records in their case accusing President Donald Trump of profiting off the presidency.

U.S. District Court Judge Peter J. Messitte approved the legal discovery schedule in an order Monday. Such information would likely provide the first clear picture of the finances of Trump's Washington, D.C., hotel.

Trump's Justice Department lawyers filed a notice to the court Friday that appeared to challenge the Maryland judge's decision to allow the case to move forward. The president's notice that he may seek a writ of mandamus — to have the appeal heard by a higher court — is considered an "extraordinary remedy" that's hard to prove and partly rests on showing Messitte's decisions to be clearly wrong.

The Justice Department declined to comment.

"We've got the discovery ready to go," said Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh. "Their objective at this point is just to keep the doors shut, they don't want any of this information out in public and they don't want our case to move forward."

So they're going to be obstructing as much as they can."

District of Columbia Attorney General Karl A. Racine



In this Dec. 21, 2016, file photo, the Trump International Hotel at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, is seen in Washington.

Associated Press

said in a statement that the subpoenas would go out to third-party organizations and federal agencies "to gather the necessary evidence to prove that President Trump is violating the Constitution's emoluments clauses — our nation's original anti-corruption laws." Trump has been fighting multiple lawsuits that argue foreign representatives' spending money at the Trump International Hotel are violations of the Constitution's emoluments clause, which bans federal officials from accepting benefits

from foreign or state governments without congressional approval.

A clue as to what entities may receive subpoenas may be found in preservation subpoenas filed more than a year ago with 23 Trump-related entities, including The Donald J. Trump Revocable Trust, The Trump Organization, the Mar-a-Lago Club Inc. and entities related to his D.C. hotel and its management, among others.

The subpoena requires the majority of documents to be preserved from Jan. 1,

2015, on an ongoing basis. The court filings cite document categories for preservation, including those from Nov. 8, 2016, onward concerning "marketing to foreign or domestic governments, including members of the diplomatic community."

Other noted categories for preservation include documents that would identify guests of the hotel and those who have rented event space, details on all finances, and "operating leases, permits, licenses, tax payments or credits to

or from foreign or domestic governments."

According to the agreed-upon schedule, if there are no delays, legal discovery would conclude in early August.

"The president is engaging in very serious constitutional violations every day in our view, so we're glad to have the opportunity to bring this case to closure promptly in 2019," said Norman Eisen, chairman of the nonprofit Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, which is co-counsel with the two jurisdictions. □

Children return to school 3 weeks after California wildfire

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
YUBA CITY, Calif. (AP) — Eight-year-old Bella Maloney woke up next to her little brother in a queen-size bed at a Best Western hotel and for breakfast ate a bagel and cream cheese that her mother brought up from the lobby. And then she was off to school for the first time in nearly a month. For Bella, brother Vance and thousands of other youngsters in Northern California who lost their homes or their classrooms in last month's deadly wildfire, life crept a little closer to normal Monday when school finally resumed in most of Butte County. "They're ready to get back," Bella's mother, Erica Hail, said of her children. "I think



The burned remains of the Paradise Elementary school is seen in a Friday, Nov. 9, 2018 file photo, in Paradise, Calif.

Associated Press

asked her daughter, waking her up in their hotel room.

"Seven dot dot three five," came the 8-year-old's sing-song reply. 7:35. It was time to brush her teeth, comb her hair and hit the road for a nearly hourlong drive to school in the family SUV.

A few minutes later, at seven-dot-dot-four-seven, they were out the door.

Some families driven out by the inferno have left the state or are staying with friends or relatives too far away for the children to go back to school in Butte County.

The Hails — whose five-bedroom, two-bath home in Paradise was destroyed — are staying in Yuba City, a long drive from their new school in Durham.

It was shortly before the 9 a.m. start of the school day when they pulled up to Durham Elementary School, where Bella is in third grade and Vance is in half-day kindergarten.

Across the county, nearly all of the teachers are returning to provide a familiar and comforting face to the children. "It's important that the kids are able to stay together and have some sort of normalcy in the crazy devastation that we're having now," said Jodi Seaholm, whose daughter Mallory is a third-grader. Mallory underwent radiation in October to treat a recurrence of brain cancer and showed no fear, Seaholm said, but "this situation with her house burning down has absolutely devastated her."

Counselors brought in from around the country were in nearly every classroom Monday to help children who were distressed by their escape through a burning town and the loss of their homes, Paradise school Superintendent Michelle John said at a celebratory news conference. Many of the teachers lost their homes as well.

"Our kids are traumatized," John said. "Their families are traumatized." Most of Paradise High School survived but is inaccessible. □

they're sick of Mom and Dad." At school, "they get to have time alone in their own space and their own grade and they get to just be by themselves."

Schools in the county had been closed since Nov. 8, when the blaze swept through the town of Paradise and surrounding areas, destroying nearly 14,000 homes and killing at least 88 people in the nation's deadliest wildfire in a century. About two dozen people remain unaccounted for, down from a staggering high of 1,300 a few weeks ago.

About 31,000 students in all have been away from school since the disaster. On Monday, nearly all of them went back, though some of them attended class in other buildings because their schools were damaged or destroyed, or inaccessible inside evacuation zones.

Bella was shy and not very talkative but agreed she was excited to be going back. She wanted to see her friends.

The small, tidy hotel room with two queen beds has been home to the family of five for some two weeks. Since they lost nearly everything to the fire, there was little to clutter up the space. The Hails are booked there until February.

"Bella, what time is it?" Hail

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1 child dead, 45 people hurt in Arkansas charter bus crash

By JILL BLEED

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A third grader was killed and at least 45 people were injured when a charter bus carrying youth football players from Tennessee rolled off an interstate and overturned before sunrise Monday in central Arkansas, authorities said.

Arkansas State Police said the bus crashed along Interstate 30 near Benton, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) southwest of Little Rock. Police said most of the injured were children and that they were taken to hospitals in Little Rock and Benton.

The elementary-school age children from the Orange Mound Youth Association in southeast Memphis were returning home after playing in a tournament in the Dallas area over the weekend, according to Memphis TV station WMC. Orange Mound is a historically black neighborhood that unites around its highly competitive youth football program.

One of half a dozen adults on the bus, Damous Hailey, said the players from 10 Orange Mound Youth Association football teams had been playing in all-star squads. He told The Commercial Appeal newspaper that the bus swerved then flipped "about 15 or 20 times," before landing on its side at the foot of an embankment.

"When the bus started flipping, the kids were hollering, and we were trying to calm them down," he said in an interview from Saline Memorial Hospital, where he was treated for injuries to his right side and leg. "I was holding on, trying to make sure I didn't get thrown out." Teams and coaches affiliated with the Orange Mound Youth Association have not

returned phone calls and emails seeking comment.

At a news conference in Memphis Monday afternoon, Nickalous Manning, area superintendent of Aspire Public Schools, said a third grader from an Aspire charter school died in the crash. He did not reveal the child's name.

"When we talked to teammates here, you saw on their faces about what that young person meant to them, the impact that he had on the school community," Manning said. "This is going to be a loss that's going to be hard to heal from."

Students from five Achievement School District facilities in Memphis were also on the bus, according to district spokesman Bobby White.

Authorities haven't talked about the cause of the crash that happened under the cloak of darkness. The bus driver told state police that she lost control. The heavily damaged bus came to a rest after tumbling down a steep embankment next to the crook of a sharp bend on an off-ramp.

Dr. Todd Maxson, surgeon in chief and trauma medical director at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, said 22 of the 26 children aged 9 to 13 who were admitted to the facility were released by late Monday afternoon. He said the four remaining children were stable and expected to fully recover from their injuries.

Maxson said some of the children suffered injuries to the brain or other internal organs, while others suffered cuts and broken bones. He said two of the kids underwent emergency operations and were stable.



Employees from a wrecker service work to remove a charter bus from a roadside ditch Monday, Dec. 3, 2018, after it crashed alongside Interstate 30 near Benton, Ark.

Associated Press

Saline Memorial Hospital admitted 13 injured adults and children, spokeswoman Rebecca Jones said. They were treated for cuts, bruises and some orthopedic injuries then released. The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences received one adult patient who has not been discharged. A hospital spokeswoman said she couldn't provide any details, citing privacy laws. It is unclear if seat belts were provided. Lawmakers in Tennessee tried but failed to introduce regulations in 2017 requiring seat belts in new school buses. The bus in Monday's crash was a charter bus.

Orange Mound was created after the Civil War by and for African-Americans, and black-owned busi-

nesses flourished there until desegregation enabled residents to live elsewhere. Chronic disinvestment brought widespread crime and poverty.

One resident, Carlos Morgan, told The Associated Press that the youth football program is vital in a neighborhood where youths can so easily be lured into drugs and crime. "It helps keep kids out of trouble," said Morgan, who also played on traveling football squads in his youth. It "gives kids opportunity and brings the community together," he said. A speeding bus filled with school children crashed in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in November 2016, leaving six students dead. Prosecutors said the driver was on the phone at

the time of the crash. He was convicted in March this year on six counts of criminally negligent homicide, 11 counts of reckless aggravated assault and seven counts of assault. □



UK's May says she'll still have her job after Brexit vote

By JILL LAWLESS

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May brushed aside questions Monday about whether she will resign if her Brexit deal is rejected by Parliament next week, saying she's confident she'll still have a job after the crucial vote.

The beleaguered leader made her sunny prediction while facing another Brexit-related headache - opposition lawmakers seeking to force May's government to publish legal advice it received about Britain's departure from the European Union.

May is battling to persuade lawmakers to support the divorce agreement she has sealed with the EU when the House of Commons votes on Dec. 11. Opposition parties say their representatives will vote against the deal, and so have dozens of lawmakers from May's Conservative Party. Defeat would leave the U.K. facing a messy, economically damaging "no-



Protestors are reflected in a puddle as they wave European flags to demonstrate against Brexit in front of the Parliament in London, Monday, Dec. 3, 2018.

Associated Press

deal" Brexit on March 29 and could topple the prime minister, her government, or both.

May predicted Monday that despite the blowback "I will still have a job in two weeks' time."

"My job is making sure that we do what the public asked us to: We leave the EU but we do it in a way that is good for them," she told broadcaster ITV.

The Conservative prime minister has consistently re-

fused to say what she plans to do if — as widely predicted — the British Parliament rejects the deal her government reached with the EU. "I'm focusing on ... getting that vote and getting the vote over the line," she said.

Politicians on both sides of Britain's EU membership debate oppose the agreement that May struck with the bloc — pro-Brexit ones because it keeps Britain bound closely to the EU, and pro-EU politicians because it erects barriers between the U.K. and its biggest trading partner.

May's opponents argue that Britain can renegotiate the deal for better terms.

But the British government and the EU insist that the agreement, which took a year and a half to negotiate, is the only one on the table and rejecting it would mean leaving the bloc without a deal.

"There is no Plan B," Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said.

Rutte cited the "red lines" drawn by both sides during negotiations, including the U.K.'s refusal to accept the free movement of people between Britain and the EU, and the need to keep an open border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland. □

Italy's labor minister embroiled in family business scandal



In this Aug. 23, 2018 file photo, Italian labor and development minister Luigi Di Maio talks to reporters during a press conference in Rome.

Associated Press

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The father of Italy's labor and development minister apologized Monday for hiring workers off the books for his small construction firm but insisted his "errors" shouldn't reflect badly on his son.

A video posted Monday on the 5-Star Movement's Facebook page featured

Antonio Di Maio, at times choking up, acknowledging he had hired workers without contracts and saying his business couldn't survive any other way.

Di Maio's son, Italian Deputy Premier Luigi Di Maio, leads the 5-Stars, an anti-establishment party that prides itself on the honesty and transparency of its public servants.

The labor and tax scandal involving the elder Di Maio is problematic for his son since the campaign that brought the 5-Stars to power in June emphasized his family's honest background and Luigi Di Maio's support for the ordinary workers and small entrepreneurs who make up the backbone of Italy's struggling economy. After initially saying he didn't know details about the family business, Di Maio, who heads Italy's labor and economic development ministries, inquired with his father and ac-

knowledgeed problems. He has distanced himself from them and vowed full transparency.

Police have also searched the family's Naples-area homestead after Mediaset's Le Iene investigative program, which broke the scandal, suggested some buildings there were unauthorized.

In his video statement, Antonio Di Maio acknowledged past "errors" and apologized to his family and the workers he had cheated out of employment benefits.

But he said his son never knew about his labor practices and shouldn't be subject to what he called "ferocious and disproportionate attacks" from political opponents. Le Iene interviewed former workers who said they were paid in cash and when injured on the job prevented from filing for worker's compensation since that would have ex-

posed their irregular status. Despite the problems posed by the scandal, Luigi Di Maio is not alone among Italian politicians who have been tainted by the sins of their fathers.

Former Premier Matteo Renzi was hobbled by a corruption investigation involving his father. One of Renzi's ministers was accused of using her influence to help out the bank where her father was deputy chairman — a charge she denied.

Both Renzi and the former minister, Maria Elena Boschi, have excoriated Di Maio for what they said was hypocrisy. The 5-Stars led the charge against them when their fathers were in the spotlight.

"The 5-Stars created a villainous climate with personal attacks. And today, Di Maio's family is victim of the same system," Renzi said Monday in his weekly newsletter. □

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Far-right party shakes up Spanish politics

By ARTZ PARRA
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — A regional election in Spain saw a surge of support for a far-right party and dealt a major setback to the ruling Socialists, prompting the prime minister on Monday to vow to defend democracy from fear.

The anti-migrant, anti-feminist and euroskeptic Vox party won 12 seats Sunday in the 109-member parliament of Andalusia, Spain's most populated region and a bastion of the Socialists for the past 36 years.

The four-year-old Vox party, which had not previously held any seats in Spain, could now be a kingmaker and oust the Socialists from Andalusia's regional government if they strike a deal with conservatives and the center-right to assemble a 59-seat majority.

Those leaders on Monday began talks to form a regional government, which both parties said would include contacts with Vox.

The surprising win — the most favorable polls ahead of the election predicted Vox would win about five seats — also launched the party's strategy to make a dent in national politics and the European elections next year. It's also a blow to those who had felt that



In this Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018 photo, supporters of Spain's far-right Vox party, wave Spanish flags as they celebrate the results during regional elections in Andalusia, in Seville, Spain.

Associated Press

sour memories of Spain's 20th-century dictatorship and a consensus over the European Union's benefits had inoculated the country from a global wave of rising populism.

French far-right leader Marine Le Pen was one of the first to celebrate Vox's success, congratulating the party's national leader, Santiago Abascal, in a tweet for what she said was "a very significant result for a young and dynamic

movement."

In a sharp contrast, Spain's Socialist prime minister, Pedro Sanchez, tweeted Monday that "my government will continue working on a regenerating and pro-European project for Spain." He said the result will "strengthen our pledge to defend the Constitution and Democracy against fear."

The Socialists saw their support plummet to just 33 seats, compared to 47 in

2015 and far from the majority of 55 needed to govern even if they could get the backing of Adelante Andalucia, the local brand of the anti-establishment Podemos party, which took 17 seats.

The conservative Popular Party came second with 26 seats — down seven from previously — and the center-right Citizens party more than doubled its presence in the regional assembly, capturing 21 seats.

Still, analysts said that having Spain's right-wing side themselves with the far-right could backfire, especially with local, other regional and European elections next year and a possible general election that could come any time before 2020.

That's the limit of the legislative term for Sanchez, who toppled former conservative Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy in June with a no-confidence vote. Sanchez now leads Spain's weakest minority government in four decades of democracy and there is increasing speculation that he could be calling an early election. The acting regional president in Andalusia, Susana Diaz, blamed the Socialists' loss of support on the high rate of abstention, which has been interpreted as punishment by traditional center-left voters to the corruption scandals marring her party.

"We have understood the message and we take note," said Diaz, who also called on other parties to "build a firewall against the extreme right in Spain."

"Each party must decide if they are against the extreme right or if they will rely on their support to enter into government," Diaz said. □

Qatar to pull out of Saudi-dominated OPEC amid Doha boycott

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The tiny, energy-rich Arab nation of Qatar announced Monday it will withdraw from OPEC in January, a rebuke of the Saudi-dominated cartel as the kingdom's boycott of Doha continues unabated and a crucial meeting of the group looms this week.

The surprise declaration could make Qatar the first Middle East nation to leave the cartel since its founding in 1960. It again injects politics into an organization that long has insisted it is nonpartisan, stealing headlines just as the cartel deliberates production cuts to halt a slide in global crude oil prices.

Although contributing only a fraction of OPEC's overall production, Qatar's decision also throws into question the viability of the cartel. Once muscular enough to grind America to a halt with its 1970s oil embargo, OPEC needed non-members like Russia to push through a production cut in 2016 after prices crashed below \$30 a barrel. That's unlikely to change, especially as the United States regained the throne of the world's top oil producer.

"The Qatari leadership is no longer interested in remaining an active part of an organization that largely shuns it," the Eurasia Group said in an analysis. "The two individuals that markets focus on are Saudi Arabia's energy tsar Khalid al-Falih and Russia's Alexander Novak. Qatari energy officials



In this May 5, 2018, file photo, a giant image of the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, adorns a tower in Doha, Qatar.

Associated Press

are not consulted, at the very least not sufficiently, and its leaders are no longer an active part of the organization's machine."

The decision was announced by Saad Sherida al-Kaabi, Qatar's minister of state for energy affairs. He said Qatar, the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas, planned to increase its exports from 77 million tons of gas per year to 110 million tons. He also said Qatar wants to raise its oil production.

"In light of such efforts and plans, and in our pursuit to strengthen Qatar's position as a reliable and trustworthy energy supplier across the globe, we had to take steps to review Qatar's role and contributions on the international energy scene," al-Kaabi said.

There was no comment from Vienna-based OPEC, which meets Thursday to

discuss possible production cuts. In November, al-Falih said OPEC and allied oil-producing countries will probably need to cut crude supplies, perhaps by as much as 1 million barrels of oil a day, to rebalance the market.

Qatar produces only about 600,000 barrels of crude oil a day, making it OPEC's 11th biggest producer. The loss of production, under 2 percent of overall OPEC supply a day, won't greatly affect the cartel's position in the market.

Anas Alhajji, an oil analyst, said Qatar's decision "has no impact on the market either way whether they're in or they're out."

"The cost for them is higher than the benefit" of remaining in OPEC, Alhajji said. "This is just like shutting down a losing business."

Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim Al Thani, Qatar's former prime

minister who remains a powerful figure in the country, called the withdrawal from OPEC a "wise decision."

"This organization has become useless and adds nothing to us," Sheikh Hamad wrote on Twitter. "They are used only for purposes that are detrimental to our national interest."

Qatar, a country of 2.6 million people where citizens make up over 10 percent of the population, discovered its offshore North Field gas deposit in 1971, the same year it became independent.

It took years for engineers to discover the field's vast reserves, which shot Qatar to No. 3 in world rankings, behind Russia and Iran, with which it shares the North Field. It also has made the country fantastically wealthy, sparking its successful bid for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Qatar also hosts the al-Udeid Air Base, the home of the forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command and about 10,000 U.S. troops.

Qatar's wealth has seen it take on a larger importance in international affairs. Its political stances, often supporting Islamists, have drawn the ire of its neighbors, particularly Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest exporter.

In June 2017, Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and

the United Arab Emirates cut ties to Qatar in a political dispute that is still going on. They also launched an economic boycott, stopping Qatar Airways flights from using their airspace, closing the country's sole land border with Saudi Arabia and blocking its ships from using their ports.

They say the crisis stems from Qatar's support for extremist groups in the region, charges denied by Doha. The four nations also have pointed to Qatar's close relationship with Iran. Qatar restored full diplomatic ties to Iran amid the dispute.

OPEC, or the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, was formed in 1960 as a reaction to Western domination of the oil industry.

Qatar was the first nation outside of its founding members to join the cartel, entering its ranks in 1961. Counting Qatar, OPEC has 15 members, including Algeria, Angola, Congo, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. OPEC nations like Ecuador, Gabon and Indonesia have either withdrawn or suspended their membership in the past, only later to rejoin. Qatar could potentially do the same.

OPEC sets production targets for its members in an effort to control the price of oil available on the global market.

President Donald Trump repeatedly has criticized both OPEC and U.S. ally Saudi Arabia over rising oil prices in recent weeks, demanding a production increase to drive down U.S. gasoline prices. That rising supply, coupled with the Trump administration allowing many countries to continue to import Iranian oil despite his targeting of Tehran with sanctions, has seen global prices drop.

Benchmark Brent crude, for instance, reached over \$85 a barrel in early October, only to drop sharply in the time since. It traded at just over \$61 a barrel Monday. □

WHO: US experts not needed to fight Ebola outbreak in Congo

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The head of the World Health Organization says it doesn't need experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or any other U.S. government agency to fight the deadly Ebola outbreak in Congo, insisting: "We can cover it."

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghe-

breyesus says the U.N. health agency mostly needs the United States to continue the financial and other support it has provided.

He noted the U.S. and many other developed countries have security guidelines that prevent deployments of experts in conflict zones like the Ebola-hit area of eastern

Congo. Rebel groups there have complicated efforts to battle what is now the world's second-deadliest Ebola outbreak.

Tedros told reporters Monday in Geneva: "We can mobilize from other parts, from those institutions who don't have very strict security provisions like that. We can cover it." □

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Nigerian president says he's alive, not an impostor

By SAM OLUKOYA
Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Nigeria's president took the extraordinary step of denying rumors that he died and was replaced by a body double, telling the country that he is alive and well.

"It is the real me I assure you," President Muhammadu Buhari said Sunday to a group of Nigerians during a visit to Poland, where he is attending the United Nations Climate Conference. "A lot of people hoped that I died during my ill health," Buhari said. "I am still going strong."

The 75-year-old, who was elected in 2015 and will run for his second term in February, has been in ill health throughout his presidency. But in the video of his remarks posted to Twitter by his personal assistant, he joked as he dismissed the rumors, to laughter and head-shaking applause by some government officials after a Nigerian posed a question about his identity. The government has been tight-lipped about Buhari's health throughout his presidency.

Rumors of his death started in 2017, when Buhari spent seven weeks in London for medical treatment. They abated when he returned to Nigeria, but returned in full force last month, stoked by prominent opposition leaders and separatists.

Nnamdi Kanu, leader of the separatist group, Indigenous People of Biafra, said that a Sudanese lookalike, named Jubril, had taken Buhari's place as a body



In this Monday Oct. 1, 2018 file photo, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari waves to the crowd during the 58th anniversary celebrations of Nigerian independence, in Abuja, Nigeria.

Associated Press

double. His claims were shared widely online, often accompanied by videos that appeared to portray a dead Buhari lying in a London hospital.

This is not the first time that Nigerians have speculated about a president's mortality. State secrecy around former President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's ill health fostered similar rumors before Yar'Adua died in office in 2010.

As Nigeria prepares for the upcoming elections, the opposition said the president's health renders him unfit to continue his tenure. Some have questioned his ability to contain insurgent groups and Islamic extremists, which the president recently said had started using drones.

In the 2015 elections, Bu-

hari made the defeat of Boko Haram a major goal for his presidency. But extremists continue to carry out deadly suicide bombings and abductions in the northeast and wider Lake Chad region.

Deadly attacks against the Nigerian military are on the rise. Thirty-nine Nigerian soldiers were killed and another 43 were wounded in November, according to the presidency.

In late November, Buhari pivoted from repeated claims from his government that Boko Haram had been "crushed," instead urging the military to "rise to the challenge."

The Islamic State also claimed it has "full control" of Arege, a town near Lake Chad, after Nigerian soldiers fled their barracks.

The group also posted a statement Monday on the main IS website claiming that, after two days of attacks against the barracks, many soldiers were killed and wounded.

The Nigerian military has not responded to the claims. Buhari said Monday at the U.N. Climate Change conference in Poland that no country can fight climate change on its own and called for international support to save the receding Lake Chad and ensure its safety from Boko Haram fighters. "Nigeria believes in joint and cooperative effort to tackle the problem," Buhari said, noting that climate change effects are felt more acutely in vulnerable communities. "We urge that effort to address the challenges of climate

change be pursued within multilateral frame work."

He said parameters should be put in place to monitor financial flows from developed countries to developing economies.

Lake Chad, one of the world's largest freshwater lakes, has shrunk by 95 percent in more than 50 years, the government says. Buhari has said that has led to massive social and economic loss for millions of families, and has linked it to violence by Boko Haram insurgents. He called on the international community to support a water transfer from the Congo Basin, saying it would benefit of over 40 million people that depend on the Lake Chad for their livelihood and to guarantee future security of the region. □

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Uruguay rejects ex Peru president Garcia's asylum request

By FRANKLIN BRICENO
Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Former Peruvian President Alan Garcia said Monday he would cooperate with prosecutors investigating him for corruption after Uruguay turned down his asylum request and forced him to leave the residence of its ambassador to the Andean nation.

In denying Garcia's asylum claim, Uruguayan President Tabare Vazquez said there was no evidence to support the politician's claim that he was being targeted politically.

"In Peru the three branches of government function freely and autonomously, especially in this case the judicial power," Tabare Vazquez said.

Around the same time that Vazquez announced his decision in Uruguay's capital, a silver-colored sedan



In this Oct. 19, 2010 file photo, Peru's then President Alan Garcia, attends a meeting in the Port of Ilo, southern Peru.

Associated Press

left his ambassador's residence in Lima, taking Garcia first to his daughter's home and then to his mansion in the leafy Miraflores neighborhood. From there, an aide read a statement in which Garcia vowed to cooperate with prosecutors, saying he had only

sought asylum because he had received information that he would be detained despite having never missed several previous judicial citations.

"When I am called to testify I will do so promptly, as I already have been doing, and hoping that rumors of

my arbitrary detention are false," the statement said.

Garcia fled to Uruguay's diplomatic mission a little more than two weeks ago after a judge banned him from leaving the country for 18 months as investigators probe allegations he received illegal payments from Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht.

Garcia has argued that he was the victim of false testimony by political enemies who told prosecutors he allegedly took bribes from Odebrecht during the construction of Lima's metro during his 2006-2011 government. He has not been charged.

Odebrecht has at the center of Latin America's biggest corruption scandal since admitting in a 2016 plea agreement with the U.S. Justice Department that it paid corrupt officials across Latin America nearly

\$800 million in exchange for major infrastructure contracts.

The scandal has led to the jailing of numerous politicians across the region, especially in Peru, where former President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski was forced to resign for hiding his past work as a consultant to Odebrecht and Garcia, as well as two other former presidents, Ollanta Humala and Alejandro Toledo, are being probed for allegedly taking illegal payments.

Garcia's request for asylum seemed to have garnered little sympathy from Peruvians accustomed to widespread graft by top officials. Barely a half-dozen die-hard loyalists from his APRA party gathered outside his home Monday shouting support, down from just a few dozen when he took refuge in the ambassador's residence. □

Ecuador VP removed, accused of taking kickbacks from aide



In this Jan. 6, 2018 file photo, Ecuador's then newly-named Vice President Maria Alejandra Vicuna flashes a thumbs up as she leaves the National Assembly in Quito, Ecuador, after she was chosen to replace Jorge Glas.

Associated Press

Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno on Monday suspended his vice president, who faces allegations that as a congresswoman she took kickbacks from a staff member.

The removal of Maria Alejandra Vicuna came after she requested an unpaid leave of absence until January so she could prepare her defense in a probe started last week by Ecuador's chief prosecutor. She said she was doing so as not to interfere with government work.

Moreno said a top aide,

Jose Briones, would occupy the vice presidency, but gave no indication for how long.

Briones is Ecuador's third vice president since Moreno took office last year. The president's running mate, Jorge Glas, was stripped of his duties after he was jailed and later convicted of orchestrating a plot to demand millions of dollars in bribes from Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht during the leftist government of President Rafael Correa. Both he and Moreno served as Correa's vice president.

Last week, a government

opponent accused Vicuna of receiving regular payments of between \$300 and \$1,400 from an aide between 2011 and 2013, when she was a lawmaker aligned with the ruling party.

Vicuna has acknowledged receiving deposits from a staffer, but said they were not mandatory kickbacks. She said the former aide turned against her with what she called slanderous accusations after she rebuffed repeated requests since September to name him to a government position. □

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Love4Art Studio exhibits new works in library

ORANJESTAD — The members of the Love4Art Studio will present their annual exposition at the public library in Oranjestad, from December 3rd till December 21st of 2018.

The exposition is open during regular opening hours of the library. The exposition is titled 'Archetypes and sacred contracts' and is a presentation of works made this year, both paintings and assemblage works.

Love4Art Studio was formed a few years ago by a group of creative women who decided to stay together, inspire each other and continue pursuing their artistic goals. Members are (in alphabetical order): Aissah van Eer, Anna Fit-Buryakova, Carina Molina, Diana Hopman, Dina Leggers, Esther Lamark, Gen-

evieve Wientjes, Gina Jie Sam Foek, Marianne Beijderwellen, Roelie Groenewegen, and Sandra Slabbekoorn-Wijngaarde.

The National Library of

Aruba situated at George Madurostraat 13, Oranjestad. For more information visit their facebook page Biblioteca Nacional Aruba.



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PALM BEACH — Sunday evening, over 150 people joined Rabbi Ahron Blasberg of Chabad Aruba at the Ritz-Carlton beach front for a moving and joyful ceremony lighting the first candle of the Chanukah Menorah.

Special mention of the 11 victims of the Pittsburgh massacre was made as Rabbi Blasberg blasted his Chanukah message across the beach.

"Just one little candle we light tonight, symbolizing the light we all have inside of us and how each of us can drive away the forces of darkness by just adding a tiny bit of our light. Do an extra good deed, share your little light and together we will create a world of light and brightness, a world of goodness and kindness!"

Even people in the hotels could hear the message and some even came out after the service to tell the

Rabbi how touched they were by the Ceremony.

The crowd of locals and tourists then joined in a special rendition of Maoz Tzur followed by music and dancing. There was even a special Dreidel Mascot to dance and take photos with. The participants were then treated to delicious hot latkes and jelly donuts to celebrate.

Chabad would like to make a special thanks to the management team at the Ritz-Carlton for hosting this beautiful event.

All are invited to the rest of this week's Chanukah celebrations taking place across the Island- especially the Chanukah Live Concert on Thursday December 6th at 7pm at the Playa Linda Parking Lot.

For more information on this holiday and to follow the schedule of events please visit www.JewishAruba.com/Chanukah





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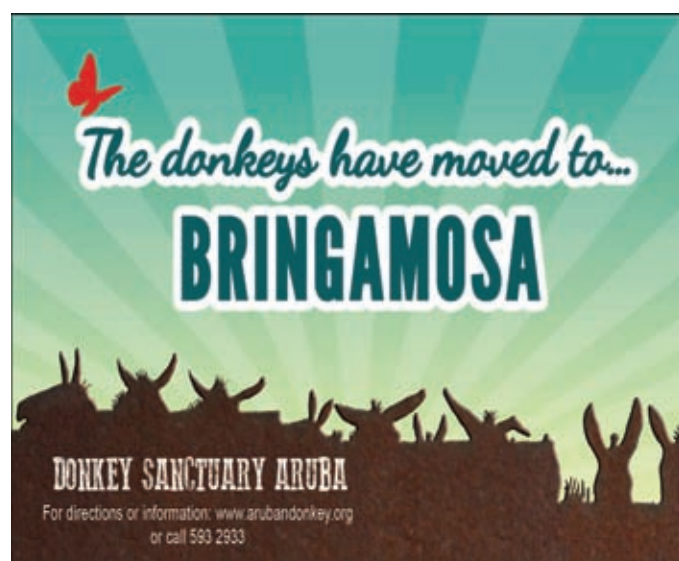
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Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Today likes to welcome readers to participate in our newspaper. You can see that in our Honored Guest-publications, specials like on Valentine's Day and on other occasions. Throughout the year you are always welcome to send us your vacation picture(s) together with completing the sentence: Aruba to me is (Email: news@aruba-today.com)

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from Elizabeth Griffin from Long Branch New Jersey. She wrote:
Aruba to me is Endless Beauty

Thank you Griffin for this wonderful comment!



Tuscany Residence Aruba started building the first 8 Townhouses

Palm Beach — Tuscany Residence Aruba is located on a prime location in Aruba at walking distance of Palm Beach. After 10 years Tuscany Residence Aruba is laying the foundation for the first 8 Townhouses. Luxury real estate built with materials which will make the homes sustainable and energy-efficient.

This first phase of the development project will consist not only of 8 Townhouses, but also 8 stand-alone Villas and 36 Condominiums, all build on property land. Tuscany Residence Aruba takes luxury living in Aruba to the next level.

Then:

10 years ago, a great development project was created with luxury homes on a prime location in Aruba. Nobody had foreseen what would happen next. The whole world got hit by the global financial crisis, which by many economists is considered the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Tuscany Residence Aruba had no other choice than to put everything on hold and wait what would happen next.

In 2017 the developer wanted to pick up where they left off. But years had passed and the original projects design was outdated. So, with the work of Dutch architects, designers and other bright minds, a whole new Tuscany Residence Aruba was created. A beautiful European modern design was the result. Using the newest techniques in building and making sure the houses will be sustainable and energy-efficient inside and out.

Now:

On October 24, 2018, the digging started for the foundation of the first 8 Townhouses of which 4 are already sold! With the sales office right on the building site Tuscany makes sure the high European standards are met. The Townhouses will also be equipped with European kitchens and bathrooms. This modern design will be realized with the use of cellular concrete which is pre-fabricated in The Netherlands. Cellular concrete is lightweight and provides structure, insulation and it is fire and mold-resistant. Because of the fact that it is pre-fabricated, the building of the Townhouses will go fast and Tuscany expects the first home owners to move in by the beginning of June 2019.

Future:

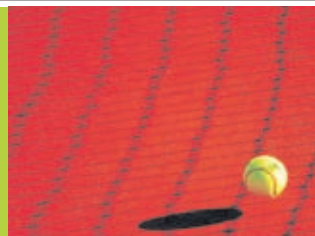
The Tuscany Residence Aruba development project will consist of 178 homes. Townhouses, 2- and 3-layer Villas and Condominiums. All on property land. The prices start from \$328.000 to \$776.000. This residential park is a once in a lifetime opportunity when it comes to luxury living in Aruba. Tuscany Residence Aruba is a perfect location. It is just within walking distance of Palm Beach, down the road from the Ritz Carlton and the Marriott. Watersports like Kitesurfing, wind surfing and sailing are an everyday possibility. Open-air malls for shopping are close and for every taste there is a restaurant nearby.

Tuscany Residence Aruba provides a pick-up service by calling 280-4664

Randolph Arends 593-9177 – randolph@livingtoday.aw and Vicky Wesseling 594-6161 - vicky@livingtoday.aw will be able to provide you with all the information you need. ☐



SPORTS



Real Madrid's Luka Modric arrives for the Golden Ball, "Ballon d'Or" award ceremony at the Grand Palais in Paris, France, Monday, Dec. 3, 2018.

Associated Press

Ballon d'Or 1sts: Modric wins, Hegerberg takes women's award

By JOHN LEICESTER AND JEROME PUGMIRE
AP Sports Writers

PARIS (AP) — Luka Modric ended the long reign of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo by winning the Ballon d'Or for the first time on Monday, while another first saw Norwegian forward Ada Hegerberg win the inaugural women's trophy.

Messi and Ronaldo had won every Ballon d'Or since 2008, and usually fought only each other for the greatest recognition among soccer's elite. Women's fight for recognition on the biggest stage took a big step with Hegerberg's award.

Modric won the Champions League with Real Madrid and then guided Croatia to the World Cup final in July. The midfielder was voted player of the tournament.

"As a kid we all have dreams. My dream was to play for a big club and win important trophies," Modric said.

Continued on Page 22



Rivers rallies Chargers past Steelers 33-30

Los Angeles Chargers tight end Virgil Green (88) jumps over Pittsburgh Steelers cornerback Artie Burns (25) on his way to congratulate kicker Mike Badgley (4) after Badgley hit a field goal with no time left on the clock in the second half of an NFL football game to defeat the Pittsburgh Steelers 33-30, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press
Page 19

U.S. players face Bahamas-to-Australia trip for Presidents Cup

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)

— Tiger Woods finished the Hero World Challenge on Sunday and headed to Australia to promote the Presidents Cup as the U.S. captain. It's the same schedule he faces next year, with one big difference.

Woods will have 12 players with him, and he could be a playing captain.

It leads to a messy schedule that could affect two tournaments — his unofficial Hero World Challenge, an 18-man field of players from the top 50 in the world, and the Australian Open, which was hopeful of a strong field a week before the Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne.

The Presidents Cup is Dec. 12-15, the latest it has ever been played. Woods confirmed earlier in the week that the Hero World Challenge would be played the week before. Beyond that, details remain unclear.

"There are so many things that are up in the air," Woods said after he closed with a 1-over 73 and finished 17th out of 18 players.



U.S. golfer Tiger Woods hits from the fourth tee during the last round of the Hero World Challenge at Albany Golf Club in Nassau, Bahamas, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018.

Associated Press

"One of the logistical things I'm trying to figure out is try to get where there's like eight to 10 guys, plus four, five more ... you're getting close to 50 people from the Bahamas to Australia in time for a practice round, opening ceremonies and the event. We have our work ahead of us trying to logistically try to make this all happen."

One person involved in the

event told The Associated Press that the plan was to end the Hero World Challenge on Saturday next year, possibly early in the afternoon. That would allow the American contingent — players, caddies, family — time to take a charter to Melbourne, arriving Monday morning.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because nothing has been

announced.

Mark Steinberg, Woods' agent at Excel Sports Management, said he hoped to have an announcement when Woods returned from Australia.

The Presidents Cup features an American team and an International team from everywhere but Europe. There were 12 Americans in the field this year in the Bahamas and two players who

are regulars on the International team, Jason Day of Australia and Hideki Matsuyama of Japan.

The Presidents Cup was played at Royal Melbourne in 2011, and 13 players — including Woods — played the Australian Open the week before in Sydney. Officials announced last month that the Australian Open, the fifth-oldest championship in golf, would be played Dec. 5-8 and organizers were excited about another strong field. "This is great news for the Australian Open and we're excited about what this means for Australian golf fans," Golf Australia chief executive Stephen Pitt said. Now there's a choice for Americans who are on the U.S. team, and even some International players who live in America. Jordan Spieth, for example, already is a two-time winner of the Australian Open. He didn't play this year — or in the Bahamas — because he got married last weekend. "The logistics are not great," Rickie Fowler said. "A lot depends on the captain and figuring out what we want to do as a team." □

Cal's Durden, Stanford's Meehan to coach U.S. Olympic swimmers

By BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — USA Swimming is turning to a pair of veteran collegiate coaches to oversee the Olympic swimming team in 2020.

Dave Durden of California will be in charge of the men's team and Greg Meehan of Stanford will coach the women's in Tokyo, USA Swimming announced Monday.

The U.S. swim team won 16 gold medals and 33 total medals at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games, the best showing by the Americans in any sport. Bob Bowman coached the men in Rio and David Marsh guided the women.

"We are joining a list of coaching legends. It's not lost on either one of us," Meehan said by phone. "It's



In this March 26, 2011, file photo, California head coach Dave Durden celebrates after winning the team title at the NCAA Men's Swimming & Diving Championships at the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis.

the greatest honor of my professional career."

Durden said, "It allows us to have a lot of responsibility to continue the tradition."

Durden and Meehan were assistants on the staff in Rio, and both said they have

sought advice from Bowman and Marsh in taking on Olympic head coaching duties for the first time.

"It's listening to the athletes and coaches and USA Swimming staff, the United States Olympic Committee

to understand and better help our culture be more and more successful," Durden said.

The duo coached the U.S. teams at the 2017 world championships in Hungary, where the men and women combined to win 38 medals, the most by one nation at a single world meet.

Durden and Meehan, both 42, have long records of success in the collegiate ranks.

At Cal, Durden works with Olympic champion backstroker Ryan Murphy and veteran sprinter Nathan Adrian. He has guided 24 individual NCAA champions. Besides Murphy and Adrian, the 2016 Olympic team included gold medalists Anthony Ervin and Tom Shields who have Cal ties. Durden is a four-time

NCAA coach of the year. Meehan is five-time Olympic champion Katie Ledecky's personal coach. Other Olympic champions he's guided include sprinter Simone Manuel and now-retired Maya DiRado. He is a three-time NCAA coach of the year and led the Cardinal to national titles in 2017 and '18.

Durden and Meehan previously coached together at Cal before Meehan took the Stanford job.

A four-person committee unanimously nominated each coach, according to Lindsay Mintenko, managing director of the national team.

"What Greg and Dave bring are different perspectives in what we have currently in USA Swimming," she said. "They're going to challenge us." □

Rams improve best record in NFL, beat Lions 30-16



Los Angeles Chargers kicker Mike Badgley (4) hits a field goal from the hold by Donnie Jones to defeat the Pittsburgh Steelers 33-30 with no time left in an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Todd Gurley ran for 132 yards and two touchdowns to help the Los Angeles Rams overcome a sputtering start to beat the Detroit Lions 30-16 Sunday and clinch the NFC West title for a second straight season.

The Rams (11-1) also moved a step closer to earning home-field advantage in the NFC playoffs, taking a one-game lead over New Orleans after it lost to Dallas on Thursday night. It is a cushion Los Angeles needs because its only loss was against the Saints last month.

The Lions (4-8) have lost five of six since a surge of success gave them a winning record in late October.

Detroit's defense held Los Angeles' high-powered offense in check for three quarters, giving the slumping team a shot to potentially pull off a stunning upset. The Lions, though, failed to make the most of the opportunity because their offense struggled to move the ball and score.

Aaron Donald helped seal the win by forcing Matthew Stafford to fumble midway through the fourth quarter. The star defensive tackle had two strip-sacks in his last game on Nov. 19, a 54-51 win over Kansas City.

The Rams were able to lean on Gurley, who has a single-season franchise record with 15 rushing touchdowns. The standout running back also caught three passes for 33 yards.

CARDINALS 20, PACKERS 17
GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The Packers fired coach Mike McCarthy after the loss to one of the NFL's worst teams.

Zane Gonzalez kicked a 44-yard field goal with 1:41 left, then Green Bay's Mason Crosby missed a 49-yard attempt as time expired.

Crosby pushed his kick wide right, with the flags atop Lambeau Field blowing in toward the field at the time of the kick.

The stunned Packers suffered a major blow to their fading playoff hopes. Sputtering Green Bay (4-7-1) has lost three straight and five of six.

Cardinals rookie Josh Rosen struggled for much of the afternoon, but hit Larry Fitzgerald for a sliding 32-yard completion on third-and-23 to help set up Gonzalez's winning kick.

Arizona (3-9) won on the road for the first time since Oct. 7 at San Francisco.

Aaron Rodgers was 31 of 50 for 233 yards and a touchdown. A couple throws looked off, especially in the first half, and receivers had a few drops.

Rookie Chase Edmonds ran for two touchdowns for Arizona. Rosen was 11 of 26 for 149 yards.

CHARGERS 33, STEELERS 30
PITTSBURGH (AP) — Michael Badgley kicked a 29-yard field goal on the final play to lift Los Angeles past Pittsburgh.

Badgley initially missed a 39-yard kick but Pittsburgh



Los Angeles Rams quarterback Jared Goff (16) greets running back Todd Gurley (30) after Gurley's 13-yard rush for a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, in Detroit.

Associated Press

was called for offsides. Badgley's ensuing 34-yard attempt was blocked, but the Steelers were again flagged jumping across the line of scrimmage before the snap. He drilled his third attempt, and the Chargers declined another Pittsburgh penalty.

Philip Rivers completed 26 of 36 passes for 299 yards and two touchdowns for Los Angeles (9-3). Keenan Allen caught 14 passes for 148 yards and a score and Justin Jackson ran for 63 yards and a touchdown in place of injured starter Melvin Gordon. Desmond King added a 73-yard punt return for a score as the Chargers erased a 16-point halftime deficit.

Ben Roethlisberger threw for 281 yards and two scores for the Steelers (7-4-1), who have lost two straight and are now clinging to the AFC North lead over surging Baltimore. Antonio Brown caught 10 passes for a season-high 154 yards and a touchdown. James Conner added 60 yards rushing and two touchdowns before leaving in the fourth quarter with a leg injury.

GIANTS 30, BEARS 27, OT
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Aldrick Rosas kicked a 44-yard field goal in overtime and the Giants beat NFC North-leading Chicago, snapping the Bears' five-game winning streak.

The Giants (4-8) blew a 10-point lead in the final 1:13 of regulation. They didn't nail down the win until Janoris Jenkins knocked away a deep fourth-down pass to Taylor Gabriel after quarterback Chase Daniel fumbled on consecutive plays on the rainy afternoon to set up a fourth-and-8.

Chicago (8-4) forced overtime by getting a 21-yard field goal by Cody Parkey and a 1-yard touchdown pass from halfback Tarik Cohen to Anthony Miller as time expired in the fourth quarter. The trick-play touchdown was set up by a recovered onside kick by Daniel Brown on a play Giants star receiver Odell Beckham Jr. did not dive for the loose ball. Then came a questionable pass interference call in the end zone against cornerback B.W. Webb with :03 to go.

CHIEFS 40, RAIDERS 33
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Patrick Mahomes threw four touchdown passes to join Peyton Manning and Tom Brady as the only QBs to reach the 40 TD mark through 12 games.

The Chiefs won their first game since releasing star running back Kareem Hunt. The Chiefs (10-2) cut ties with Hunt after a months-old video surfaced on TMZ on Friday, showing him shoving and kicking a

woman. No charges have been filed in the case from February, but the Chiefs let Hunt go because he misled them about the incident.

Spencer Ware replaced Hunt as starter and scored on a direct snap on fourth-and-goal from the 1 in the third quarter. Mahomes did most of the rest of the damage against the Raiders (2-10) with his arm.

He connected on two short touchdown passes to Travis Kelce in the first half, then found another tight end, Demetrius Harris, on a 13-yard pass late in the third quarter one play after an apparent TD to Kelce was called off by a replay review.

Mahomes finished 23 for 38 for 295 yards and engineered a late TD drive capped by a 2-yard pass to Chris Conley after Oakland cut the deficit to three.

PATRIOTS 24, VIKINGS 10
FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady passed for 311 yards and a touchdown, while Bill Belichick earned his 250th victory, including playoffs, as Patriots coach. Brady completed 24 of 32 passes and now has 579 touchdown passes, including the playoffs, tying him with Peyton Manning for the most. He also has 508 regular-season TD passes, which ties him with Brett Favre on the career list. □



In this Oct. 21, 2017, file photo, Chicago Bulls head coach Fred Hoiberg, left, and his assistant Jim Boylen, right, look on from the sidelines during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs, in Chicago.

Chicago Bulls fire coach Fred Hoiberg; Boylen takes over

CHICAGO (AP) — The skidding Chicago Bulls fired coach Fred Hoiberg on Monday and promoted associate head coach Jim Boylen in hopes of lifting the team from the bottom of the standings.

The Bulls have been hit hard by injuries this season, but at 5-19 only two teams have worse records.

"Decisions like this one are never easy to make, however I felt this was the right choice for our organization at this time," said Jim Paxson, the team's executive vice president of basketball operations. "After a thorough evaluation, I elected to make this move with the overall development of our team in mind. As a team, I believe it is imperative that we make unfaltering strides in the right direction and build the right habits to help put our players in the best position to evolve not only now, but into the future."

The Bulls have been riddled by injuries all year. Denzel Valentine (ankle), Kris Dunn (knee) and Bobby Portis (knee) have missed significant time and forward Lauri Markkanen didn't make his season debut until this past weekend because of an elbow injury.

The 7-foot Markkanen is perhaps the centerpiece of Chicago's rebuilding plan, but Hoiberg won't be around to see it through. He finishes his tenure in Chicago, where he played for four seasons and had a long history with general manager Gar Forman, with a record of 115-155 (.426) and a single playoff appearance, when the Bulls were ousted in the first round by Boston in 2017.

Hoiberg was named Chicago's head coach in June 2015 after spending five seasons at Iowa State, where the former player was nicknamed "The Mayor." Hoiberg went 115-56 at Iowa State, including four straight NCAA Tournament appearances and back-to-back Big 12 tournament titles.

He replaced Tom Thibodeau, who was fired after five seasons, and the hope was that the free-wheeling style he used with the Cyclones would work in the NBA and that he would fare better than another former Iowa State coach, Tim Floyd, who went 49-190 record in three-plus seasons with the Bulls. □

Lakers rout Suns 120-96 for 3rd straight victory



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) dribbles next to Phoenix Suns' Trevor Ariza (3) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kyle Kuzma scored 23 points and LeBron James had 22 before both sat out the fourth quarter of the Los Angeles Lakers' third home victory in four days, 120-96 over the Phoenix Suns on Sunday.

Brandon Ingram scored 15 points and JaVale McGee had 14 points and eight rebounds in three quarters of work for the Lakers. They have won 12 of 16 since their 2-5 start to James' first season on the West Coast. Michael Beasley scored a season-high 14 points as the Lakers fell behind by 17 points in the first quarter, yet still made easy work of last-place Phoenix.

Richaun Holmes scored 15 points, and Josh Jackson and Trevor Ariza scored 13 apiece for the Suns. They have lost five straight to fall to 4-19.

Suns star Devin Booker scored six points before leaving with a strained hamstring in the second quarter. Booker hurt his leg while chasing a loose ball out of bounds, going immediately to the locker room. Booker missed three games in October after straining his hamstring in the Suns' first game against the Lakers. He was returning Sun-

day from a one-game absence due to an injured left toe after stubbing it on his hotel bed during the Suns' trip to Los Angeles to play the Clippers last Wednesday.

76ERS 103, GRIZZLIES 95

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jimmy Butler continued his run as Philadelphia's stretch-run shooter, scoring 13 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter against Memphis. Ben Simmons, who had 19 points and 12 rebounds, ran up from behind on MarShon Brooks and poked the ball free for a steal. That led to a pair of free throws for Butler that made it 95-89. Butler buried a turnaround jumper for a 97-89 lead that sealed the win.

JJ Redick continued his late-career resurgence with 24 points for the Sixers, and Joel Embiid had 15 points and 14 rebounds. Mike Conley scored 21 points for Memphis. The Sixers are 13-1 at home and 8-2 since acquiring Butler from Minnesota.

SPURS 131, TRAIL BLAZERS 118

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — DeMar DeRozan had a season-high 36 points and San Antonio overcame a big game by Damian Lillard, rebounding from a pair of lopsided losses to beat

Portland.

The Spurs held a practice Saturday morning following consecutive losses of 39 points and 31 points and the team responded with its highest point total in two weeks.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 29 points and Rudy Gay had 18 as the Spurs snapped a two-game skid. Lillard scored 37 points for Portland, and C.J. McCollum had 24.

PELICANS 119, HORNETS 109

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Anthony Davis had 36 points, 19 rebounds and eight assists to help New Orleans beat Charlotte.

Jrue Holiday added 19 points and eight assists. The Pelicans won for only the second time in seven games. Frank Kaminsky led the Hornets with a season-high 19 points, although he struggled with guarding Davis. Kemba Walker had 13 points on 5-of-16 shooting.

MAVERICKS 114, CLIPPERS 110

DALLAS (AP) — Harrison Barnes scored 30 points, and Dorian Finney-Smith tipped in a rebound with 35 seconds remaining to give Dallas the lead for good against Los Angeles. □



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ARUBA WINE & DINE

Aberg scores twice in 3rd, Ducks beat Caps 6-5

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pontus Aberg scored twice in the third period, giving Anaheim the lead with 5:05 remaining, and the Ducks stopped Washington's seven-game winning streak with a 6-5 victory Sunday. The Ducks trailed 5-1 in the second before rallying for their fourth consecutive victory. Ryan Getzlaf had a goal and two assists and Rickard Rakell had a goal and an assist in the finale of a five-game trip.

Ryan Miller stopped 19 shots, and Andrew Coglianino and Hampus Lindholm also scored in Anaheim's highest-scoring game of the season.

Evgeny Kuznetsov and Chandler Stephenson each had a goal and an assist for Washington, which chased John Gibson after scoring three times in the first part of the first period. Nicklas Backstrom, Tom Wilson and Nic Dowd also scored for the Capitals.

JETS 4, RANGERS 3, SO

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Scheifele started Winnipeg's third-period comeback and scored the deciding goal in the shootout against New York.

Jack Roslovic and Bryan Little also scored in the third as the Jets erased a 3-0 deficit and won their third straight. Jacob Trouba had two assists, and Connor Hellebuyck stopped 16 shots. Marc Staal had a goal and an assist, and Chris Kreider and Jesper Fast also scored for New York. Henrik Lundqvist made 39 saves through overtime as the Rangers



Anaheim Ducks left wing Pontus Aberg (20), of Sweden, celebrates his goal with right wing Kiefer Sherwood (64), defenseman Brandon Montour (26) and defenseman Marcus Pettersson (28) during the third period of an NHL hockey game as Washington Capitals goaltender Braden Holtby (70) stands on the ice, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, in Washington.

Associated Press

lost for the fourth time in five games.

FLAMES 3, BLACKHAWKS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Sean Monahan and Elias Lindholm each had a goal and an assist and Calgary beat Chicago to take the Pacific Division lead.

Derek Ryan also scored, and Mike Smith made 22 saves for the Flames. Jonathan Toews and Dylan Strome scored for struggling Chicago, which dropped its fourth straight and lost for the sixth time in seven games. The Blackhawks fell

to 3-8-2 since Jeremy Colliton replaced fired coach Joel Quenneville.

AVALANCHE 2, RED WINGS 0

DETROIT (AP) — Semyon Varlamov made 24 saves for his 24th career shutout and first of the season and Colorado beat Detroit to stretch its points streak to 11 games at 9-0-2. Nathan MacKinnon had a goal and an assist, and Gabriel Landeskog also scored. Jonathan Bernier stopped 27 shots for Detroit.

SHARKS 3, CANADIENS 1

MONTREAL (AP) — Martin Jones made 40 saves and San Jose beat Montreal to snap a four-game skid.

Justin Braun, Brent Burns and Joe Pavelski scored to help San Jose improve to 13-10-5. Jones is 7-1-0 in his career against Montreal. Jeff Petry scored for Montreal, and Carey Price made 26 saves. The Canadiens dropped to 12-10-5 overall and fell to 1-3-0 on their current five-game homestand.

KINGS 2, HURRICANES 0

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Alec

Martinez scored with 2:13 left, Jonathan Quick stopped 34 shots for his 50th career shutout and Los Angeles defeated Carolina. Martinez tipped Jake Muzzin's pass past goalie Petr Mrazek to help the Kings end a two-game skid. Kyle Clifford added an empty-net goal with 53 seconds remaining. Quick earned his first shutout this season. Mrazek made 33 saves for the Hurricanes, who earned at least one point in five of their previous six games. □

BALLON D'OR

Continued from Page 17

"The Ballon d'Or was more than just a dream for me and it is really an honor and a privilege to hold this trophy."

Ronaldo was second in the polling followed by France forward Antoine Griezmann. France's teen star, Kylian Mbappe, was fourth. Brazil star Neymar was third last year but only 12th this time. Messi was fifth in the voting, having been runner-up to Ronaldo the past two years and in the top three every year since 2007. Modric had never previously been in the top three.

"2018 is a dream year for me," the 33-year-old Modric said. "Throughout my career I realized hard work, persistence and belief in yourself in difficult moments are the foundations of success." Modric's father was shown on the big screen wiping away tears during the ceremony at the imperious Grand Palais in Paris. Ronaldo missed out on a record sixth award, which would have moved him one ahead of Messi. The last player to win it before those two started dominating world soccer awards was Brazil midfielder Kaka with AC Milan in 2007.

Ronaldo also won the Champions League last

season with Modric, before leaving to join Juventus. He scored a hat trick against Spain at the World Cup but he failed to make an impression when Portugal lost to Uruguay in the round of 16.

Mbappe and Griezmann scored in the 4-2 World Cup final win against Croatia. Mbappe earned a domestic treble with Paris Saint-Germain. Griezmann also scored twice for Atletico Madrid in the Europa League final win against Marseille.

France coach Didier Deschamps said a France player should have won the award.

"They deserve it because of what they did with the national team at the World Cup and also because of the trophies they won with their clubs," Deschamps said.

The 19-year-old Mbappe — the youngest player to score in a World Cup final — won the Raymond Kopa Trophy awarded to the best young player.

France Football magazine has been awarding the Ballon d'Or since 1956, and created a women's award for the first time this year.

Hegerberg is a three-time Women's Champions League winner with French side Lyon and scored a



Olympique Lyonnais' Ada Hegerberg with the Women's Ballon d'Or, center, poses with Real Madrid's Luka Modric, with the Ballon d'Or, left, and Paris St Germain's Kylian Mbappe with the Kopa Trophy, right, during the Golden Ball award ceremony at the Grand Palais in Paris, France, Monday, Dec. 3, 2018.

Associated Press

tournament-record 15 times last season.

"I want to say thanks to France Football. It's a huge step for women's football," Hegerberg said. "I want to end this speech with a message to all young girls in the world. Believe in yourselves."

The outspoken 23-year-old Hegerberg said she won't play for Norway at the Women's World Cup in France next June.

Taking a stand against

what she describes as a lack of respect for female players in Norway, she hasn't played for the national team since 2017 when it crashed out of the group stage of the Women's European Championship without scoring a goal. Speaking in an interview shortly before collecting her Ballon d'Or, Hegerberg told The Associated Press on Monday she has no plans to reconsider her decision taken to preserve

her "authenticity and my values, as a person, as a footballer."

"A lot of things need to be done to make the conditions better for women who play football," she said. "It's all about how we respect women's football. I don't think the respect has been there."

"Sometimes you have to take tough decisions to stay true to yourself. I let them know, quite clearly, what I found wasn't working." □



In this Oct. 29, 2018, file photo, National Hockey League commissioner Gary Bettman speaks during a news conference in New York.

NHL deals with uncertain situations on eve of Seattle vote

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

SEA ISLAND, Ga. (AP) — The NHL is dealing with some uncertain situations as it prepares to finalize expansion to Seattle.

The Ottawa Senators' downtown arena project is in danger of falling apart, and Arizona Coyotes owner Andrew Barroway is looking for a partner as he tries to secure a long-term home in the desert. Mean-

while, the league would like to begin making plans for a 2020 World Cup of Hockey but has no guarantee of labor peace that would allow such a tournament to take place.

Commissioner Gary Bettman updated the Board of Governors on those topics Monday on the eve of the vote that's expected to award Seattle the league's 32nd franchise. The team would begin play in the

2021-22 season, a year after original plans because arena renovations aren't scheduled to be finished until the fall of 2020.

Bettman says the salary cap is projected to go up to roughly \$83 million next season, up from the current \$79.5 million limit. That's a sign revenues are continuing to rise after the success of the expansion Vegas Golden Knights.

□



Mets get Cano, Diaz and cash from Mariners in 7-player trade

NEW YORK (AP) — Aiming for an instant upgrade after two failing seasons, the New York Mets and their rookie general manager turned to a most familiar face.

The Mets made a splash — that much was certain — when they acquired eight-time All-Star second baseman Robinson Cano and major league saves leader Edwin Diaz from the Seattle Mariners in a seven-player trade Monday.

In his first big move as Mets GM, Brodie Van Wagenen brought the 36-year-old Cano back to New York. Van Wagenen previously was an agent and represented the former Yankees slugger.

The rebuilding Mariners also sent \$20 million to the Mets for outfielder Jay Bruce, reliever Anthony Swarzak and three prospects: former first-round draft picks Justin Dunn and Jarred Kelenic, plus right-hander Gerson Bautista.

Mets fans were strongly split on the deal.

Some applauded the trade as a chance for a team three years removed from the World Series to quickly head back in that direction. The Mets went 77-85 this year despite a rotation that included NL Cy Young Award winner Jacob deGrom, Noah Syndergaard and Zack Wheeler.

Others saw the Mets mortgaging their future for a high-priced player on the back end of his career. Many Mets rooters remembered deals for aging second basemen Carlos Baeraga and Roberto Alomar Jr. that didn't work out — it was also mentioned that on this date, Dec. 3, back in 1969, the Mets traded soon-to-be star center fielder Amos Otis to Kansas City for washout third baseman Joe Foy.

Van Wagenen, Cano and Diaz were set to talk about the deal Tuesday during a holiday party at Citi Field.

Cano is halfway through a \$240 million, 10-year contract. With the cash from Seattle, the Mets will be responsible for \$100 million of the \$120 million owed to

Cano.

Cano served an 80-game suspension this year following a positive test for Furosemide, a diuretic that can be used to mask performance-enhancing drugs. Cano claimed the Furosemide was given to him by a licensed doctor in the Dominican Republic. The suspension was announced May 15, two days after Cano's right hand was broken when he was hit by a pitch thrown by Detroit's Blaine Hardy.

Cano returned to the Mariners on Aug. 14 and finished with a .303 batting average, 10 homers and 50 RBIs in 80 games. He waived his no-trade clause to return to New York.

Van Wagenen was co-head of CAA Baseball before joining the Mets in October and negotiated Cano's contract with Seattle in December 2013. Cano has a .304 career batting average with 311 homers and 1,233 RBIs, including four 100-RBI seasons. He has a career .848 OPS, including an .845 mark last season.

Diaz's value may never have been higher after the hard-throwing 24-year-old topped the majors with 57 saves last season. The Mets needed a closer after trading Jeurys Familia to Oakland last July.

The Mariners are completely revamping their roster this offseason, having already traded ace James Paxton to the Yankees. Seattle also traded All-Star shortstop Jean Segura and pitchers James Pazos and Juan Nicasio to Philadelphia on Monday for veteran slugger Carlos Santana and young infielder J.P. Crawford.

"This trade bolsters our player development system with the additions of Jarred Kelenic and Justin Dunn, while also providing immediate impact to our major league club," Mariners GM Jerry Dipoto said in a statement.

Diaz had a 1.96 ERA and struck out 124 in 73 1/3 innings.

Seattle has not reached the playoffs since 2001, the longest postseason drought



In this Sept. 22, 2018, file photo, Seattle Mariners' Robinson Cano watches his double against the Texas Rangers during the seventh inning of a baseball game in Arlington, Texas.

across the four major pro American sports. After finishing third in the AL West despite an 89-73 record, the Mariners decided to go in another direction.

Bruce, a three-time All-Star with Cincinnati who is 31, was acquired by the Mets at the 2016 trade deadline, dealt to Cleveland in August 2017, became a free agent and returned to the Mets last January. He hit .223 this year and set career lows with nine homers and 37 RBIs, sidelined from June 18 through Aug. 24 by a right hip issue.

Swarzak, 33, was 0-2 with a 6.15 ERA in 29 relief appearances. He was on the dis-

abled list twice, from April 1 through June 4 due to a strained left oblique and from Aug. 4 through Sept. 8 with right shoulder inflammation.

Bruce is owed \$13 million in each of the next two seasons, and Swarzak is due \$9 million in the final season of his two-year deal.

Kelenic, a 19-year-old outfielder, was the sixth overall selection this year and hit .286 with six homers, 42 RBIs and 15 steals in 56 games of rookie ball. Dunn, a 23-year-old right-hander, was the 19th overall pick in 2016 and was 8-8 with a 3.59 ERA this year over 24 starts at Class A and Dou-

ble-A.

MLB.com slotted Kelenic as the No. 2 prospect in Seattle's system and Dunn at No. 3. They're behind left-hander Justus Sheffield, who was acquired from the Yankees last month for Paxton.

Bautista, a 23-year-old right-hander, made his big league debut with the Mets last April and had a 12.46 ERA in five big league appearances. He was 4-1 with a 5.14 ERA in 37 games at Double-A and Triple-A, striking out 69 in 49 innings.

Seattle will pay \$5 million to the Mets this Dec. 21 and \$3.75 million on each Dec. 1 from 2019-22. □



Journalist Emma Best poses for a photograph in Las Vegas on Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018.
Associated Press

Leak site's launch shows dilemma of radical transparency

By RAPHAEL SATTER
AP Cybersecurity Writer
LONDON (AP) — A new leak website is wrestling with what to make available to the public, an illustration of the difficulty of balancing full transparency with respect for privacy in an age of mass disclosures. The site, dubbed Distributed Denial of Secrets, is aimed at capturing the cascade of leaked data coursing through the web, securing it for researchers and journalists before it disappears amid the digital churn of the internet. But the content of Denial of Secrets' library — including tranches of data from the infidelity website Ashley Madison — drew criticism ahead of its public debut Monday. The site's founders eventually decided to pull from its public collection the haul from the Ashley Madison site along with more than a dozen other leaks. "The criticism and feedback is what prompted us to change," said journalist Emma Best, the site's de facto spokesperson. The move, she added, was "half playing it safe and half just a practical measure." Denial of Secrets carries

more than 1 terabyte of data from many of the highest-profile leaks from the past decade, including stolen documents released by the Anonymous movement of digital vigilantes, leaks organized by the pseudonymous hacker Phineas Phisher and more recent disclosures by the media collective Unicorn Riot. More controversially, the site also included gigabytes worth of username and password data, as well as copies of highly sensitive leaks including the Ashley Madison material and data drawn from the religious dating site Muslim Match in 2016. The site initially met with skepticism. "You should not be hosting the Ashley Madison hack," said Joseph Cox, who has regularly covered data breaches for Motherboard, Vice's technology publication. "Ordinary people have killed themselves over this data." Both Cox and Gabriella Coleman, a McGill University anthropologist known for her in-depth work on Anonymous, said they could see a use for an online repository of major leaks. Coleman worried that in-

formation from such incidents was sinking into "the quicksand of the internet," but she said preserving lists of passwords and user data made little historical sense. "I just don't see any justification," she said. Best acknowledged being uncomfortable with the Ashley Madison data but argued that any sensitive material was "stale and is now only useable for historical purposes." She said it was hard to predict how useful data could eventually be, pointing to a number of academic studies based on the Ashley Madison leak. Eventually, she and her colleagues changed their approach; the site's public debut was delayed as some of the most controversial material was removed, including the Ashley Madison and Muslim Match files. Best said the data would now be made available to researchers privately on a case-by-case basis, a decision that mollified some critics. "Much better," said Coleman after reviewing the newly pared-back site. "Exactly the model we might want." □



In this Sept. 24, 2017, file photo people use Microsoft HoloLens to get an impression of Mercedes accessories on the stand of Mercedes-Benz during the first media day of the International Frankfurt Motor Show IAA in Frankfurt, Germany.
Associated Press

Army wants Microsoft's HoloLens headsets for battlefield

By The Associated Press

Virtual- and augmented-reality headsets haven't had much traction in the consumer market, but they're finding a place on the battlefield. The U.S. Army said Thursday that it has awarded Microsoft a \$480 million contract to supply its HoloLens headsets to soldiers. The head-mounted displays use augmented reality, which means viewers can see virtual imagery superimposed over the real-world scenery in front of them. Microsoft says the technology will provide troops with better information to make decisions. The Redmond, Washington, company says the new work extends its longstanding relationship with the Department of Defense. Military bidding documents say the technology will be used for both training and fighting, bringing more situational awareness to troops to help them become more lethal and mobile. □

Russian hackers use Brexit in phishing email, experts warn

LONDON (AP) — Cybersecurity experts at consulting firm Accenture are warning that Russian hackers are using public interest in Brexit as a lure in their latest phishing emails. The company's security division issued an advisory Thursday about a Brexit-themed document intended to deliver malware to targets. Accenture said the Microsoft Word file started circulating the same day this month that the British government agreed on a draft of its agreement to leave the European Union. The document had Brexit in its file name but contained only garbled text used to trick users into activating a macro command to load malicious content. Accenture said it appears the cyberattackers were Russian based on software used in previous hacking attempts. It added that they often use news headlines to trick victims. □

US-China trade truce seen boosting US stock market

By MARCY GORDON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The truce in the trade dispute between the U.S. and China should boost rattled financial markets, at least through the year's end, experts say. But the stock market's recent wild gyrations likely will persist as the two countries strain to reach a permanent accord.

"The all-clear sign hasn't flashed yet but it's certainly positive news," says Mike Loewengart, vice president of investment strategy at E-Trade.

The U.S. was set to raise tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods on Jan. 1. President Donald Trump agreed Saturday in a meeting in Buenos Aires with Chinese Leader Xi Jinping at the G-20 summit to hold off for 90 days while the two sides try to settle their differences.

That looming deadline, as well as Trump's threat to impose tariffs on an additional \$267 billion of goods from China, possibly including iPhones and laptops, had contributed to sharp declines in stocks since early October.

The agreement buys time for the two countries to try to work out their differences in a fight over China's aggressive drive to acquire advanced technologies. In the short term, at least, strong market gains could be in the offing.

"I think the market will probably respond quite favorably," Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist for CFRA, said in reference to the temporary trade accord. "I do think that a Santa Claus rally is in the making." Markets opened the week in Asia with solid gains after the Trump-Xi meeting. In early trading Monday the Shanghai Composite index jumped 2.7 percent and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong added 2.8 percent. Japan's Nikkei 225 index climbed 1.4 percent. The Dow and S&P futures contracts were 1.9 percent and 1.8 percent higher, auguring a strong start on Wall Street.

After a steep decline in



In this Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018, photo, specialist John O'Hara, left, works with traders at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

October, stocks steadied in early November. The selling picked up again as investors abandoned high-flying technology stocks amid concerns over the U.S.-China trade tussle and slowing global economic growth and bailed on energy stocks as the price of oil plummeted.

The market also feared the Federal Reserve's policy of gradual interest rates hikes could end the longest bull market in history by slowing economic growth and depressing company profits. But last week Fed Chairman Jerome Powell indicated the central bank might consider a pause in rate hikes next year while it gauges the impact of its credit tightening.

Stocks soared last week, with the S&P 500 rising nearly 5 percent for the week. The closely watched index is now up 3.2 for the year and, with the U.S.-China tentative agreement now

in hand, some analysts expect it could post a gain for the year in the mid-single digits.

The euphoria could stretch into early next year. But if the 90-day deadline nears without a formal trade pact, Trump could tweet his displeasure and issue threats, creating more market choppiness, analysts say.

"You're going to see a ton of volatility," suggested Nate Thooft, a senior portfolio manager at Manulife Asset Management. "There's definitely no shortage of uncertainty."

Volatility has been a hallmark of the market recently. According to S&P Dow Jones Indices, the S&P 500 closed with a gain or loss of 1 percent or more on 18 of 44 trading days in October and November. There were eight such days in all of 2017.

Beyond the trade and tariff issues, there are still nag-

ging concerns that higher interest rates could crimp economic growth in the U.S. and globally. Potential hot spots and instability abroad that can fuel higher commodity prices and spark inflation also aren't

going away.

That means even with the encouraging results of the Group of 20 summit, "There will still be a cloud hanging over the market," E-Trade's Loewengart said. □

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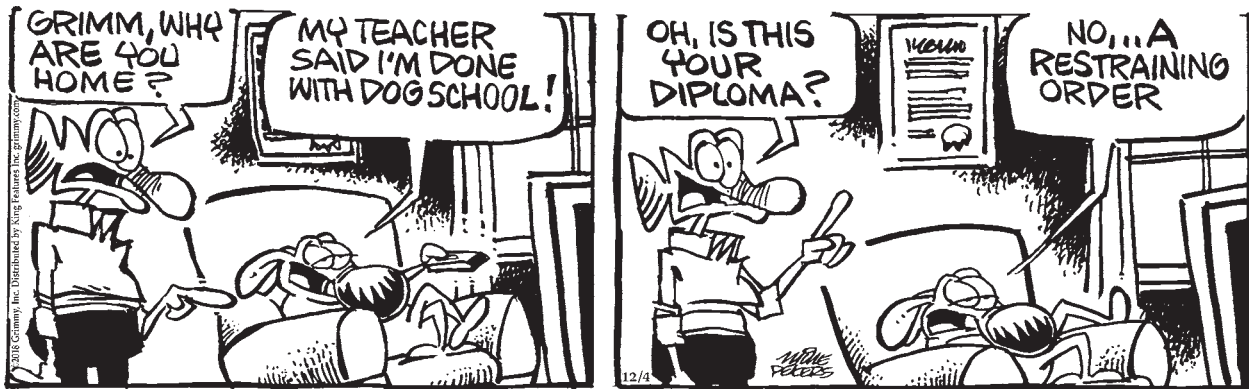
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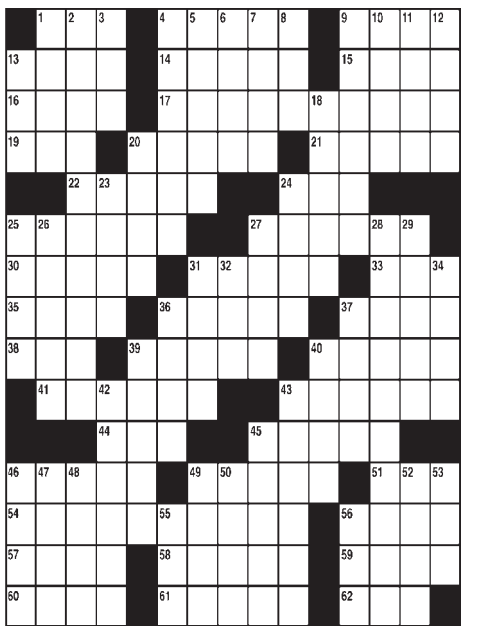
5		8	7					
		3			4			9
	3	7			2			
			1	8		2	5	
8								4
3	4		9	6				
		2				1	4	
4		8		1				
				6	5		9	

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

5	2	3	4	7	9	8	6	1
1	8	4	6	5	2	7	3	9
9	7	6	8	3	1	2	5	4
8	1	9	3	4	5	6	2	7
4	6	5	2	1	7	3	9	8
7	3	2	9	8	6	1	4	5
6	5	1	7	2	4	9	8	3
2	4	8	1	9	3	5	7	6
3	9	7	5	6	8	4	1	2

- ACROSS
- 1 Winter month: abbr.
 - 4 Like a rash, often
 - 9 Male animal
 - 13 Grandma
 - 14 Wild brawl
 - 15 Rise & fall of the waves
 - 16 "Queen for ___" of old TV
 - 17 Not at all radical
 - 19 Become firm
 - 20 ___ into; meets unexpectedly
 - 21 Hurts
 - 22 Secluded valleys
 - 24 Noisy bird
 - 25 Visible fold
 - 27 Lifts with effort
 - 30 Fertile area in a desert
 - 31 Bawls
 - 33 Kanye West's music
 - 35 ___ up; incite
 - 36 Leo XIII & Pius X
 - 37 Surfboard support
 - 38 ___-tac-toe
 - 39 Dens & kitchens
 - 40 Relinquish voluntarily
 - 41 Acting awards
 - 43 John the Baptist or Joan of Arc, e.g.
 - 44 Largest club
 - 45 Slogan
 - 46 Frighten
 - 49 Short-tailed weasel
 - 51 Curved edge
 - 54 Deep cut
 - 56 Zero
 - 57 Carney & Garfunkel
 - 58 True and ___ test
 - 59 Lightly tap a baseball
 - 60 Clutter
 - 61 Wooded
 - 62 Pack animal



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/4/18

6 Paper __; staple alternative	7 Female birds	8 Simple reply	9 Alley cats	10 Wedding cake level	11 First man	12 Topaz & ruby	13 Unpleasant spouse	18 Chiang Mai residents	20 Mrs. Truman	23 Lion's den	24 Biden & Montana	25 Expense	26 Numerical comparison	27 Rushes	28 Disloyal to one's nation	29 Streetwise	31 Sounds of contentment	32 Record speed letters	34 One's equal	36 Tiny skin opening	37 Where to apply Compound W	39 Petty or Andretti
40 "W" on a light bulb	42 Hug	43 ___ and groaned; complained	45 Bullwinkle, for one	46 Close noisily	47 Give a hoot	48 ___ up; misbehaves	49 "When You Wish Upon a ___"	50 Mah-jongg piece	52 Traveler's stops	53 Largest U.S. opera house	55 Toward a ship's stern	56 Org. for Rockets & Raptors										

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Beloved gift shop turtle celebrates 50th birthday party

Associated Press

BRISTOL, N.H. (AP) — A turtle given to a bedridden little boy in New Hampshire back in 1968 celebrated her 50th birthday with party hats, a sheet cake with the right number of candles and many well-wishers. Diane the Turtle was given to Jim Tonner when he was 12 and being treated for hip arthritis at his home in Braintree, Massachusetts. Years later, Jim, and his twin brother, Brad Tonner, opened a gift shop in Bristol, New Hampshire, which became Diane's home. Her tank is surrounded by photos of store visitors. On Saturday, the store was crowded with visitors singing "Happy Birthday" to Diane, who wore a tiny party hat. "Another animal might put their head back in their shell," Jim Tonner said Monday. "Her head went straight out. It's one of the funniest things you've ever seen."

The brothers have written and illustrated books about Diane and set up a turtle



webcam in their shop. Tonner said when he was a child, turtles like Diane were popular pets, but many didn't live that long. That's why she's so unusual, he said. Today, the 4-pound turtle is thriving. Her favorite foods are strawberries and romaine lettuce. But don't worry about the ban on that salad green; Tonner grows his own romaine. "That's why she's 50 years old," Tonner said with a laugh. □

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Whale songs and war: The less talked-about climate impacts

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Near Antarctica, whales are singing in deeper tones to cut through the noise of melting icebergs. In California, a big college football rivalry game was postponed until Saturday because of smoky air from wildfires. And Alaskan shellfish were struck by an outbreak of warm water bacteria.

That's global warming in action. Climate change is more than heat waves, hurricanes, floods, droughts, sea level rise, melting ice and ever-increasing temperatures.

Sometimes global warming has a hand —directly or indirectly — in something quirky, such as the pitch change in five baleen whale populations in the Southern Ocean. It can be annoying, such as having to reschedule the Big Game between California and Stanford, or seeing plants bloom too early in the spring.

More often the influence of climate change is ominous, like oceans becoming more acidic and eating away at clam shells and coral reefs, which already got bleached by warmer waters.

Or even out-of-place and dangerous, like the *Vibrio*



In this June 5, 2014, file photo, a man rides a bicycle through a part of Homs, Syria, devastated by the country's civil war.

Associated Press

bacteria outbreak in Alaska or once-tropical, disease-carrying mosquitoes arriving in Canada.

It could be a bit unexpected, like a study linking warmer climate to a rise in winter crimes in the United States. Northeastern University criminologist James Fox says that actually makes sense because more people outside means more opportunity for foul play.

And climate change has altered global politics. Nu-

merous studies have said it was a factor in record-setting drought in Syria —one of several causes of the country's civil war that triggered a massive refugee crisis.

The military calls this a multiplier effect. Problems combine, pile up and worsen each other. Climate change does that, even in matters of national security, said Richard Alley, a climate scientist at Pennsylvania State University.

"Climate change didn't cause the Syrian civil war" but in a place that's unhappy, a drought arrives, farmers move to an overcrowded city and problems multiply and lead to war, Alley said. "It was the straw that broke the camel's back." Conflict over climate change impacts is not confined to Syria, says University of Oklahoma meteorology professor Renee McPherson. It also applies to thousands of Nigerians "killed in

conflicts between farmers and cattle herders who are competing for diminishing water supplies and fertile lands," she said.

"It's like a domino effect," said University of Hawaii geographer Camilo Mora. "You go three steps backward and you realize that climate change was part of the equations."

Mora scoured scientific literature to see how often global warming influenced some of society's ills and came up with 467 examples. Australian underground electrical transmission wires, for example, short-circuited because of heat and planes were grounded in Arizona because hotter air is thinner, making take-offs and landings more difficult.

"The laundry list of cases is just mind-blowing," Mora said.

A changing planet has messed with the timing of nature.

"There are hundreds of changes of the flowering of plants, the leafing out of trees, the migrations of birds" that can be attributed to climate change, said Boston University biologist Richard Primack. And when that happens, sometimes it creates "mismatches." □

Whale songs and war: The less talked-about climate impacts

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Dictionary.com chooses 'misinformation' as word of the year

By LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Misinformation, as opposed to disinformation, was chosen Monday as Dictionary.com's word of the year on the tattered coattails of "toxic," picked earlier this month for the same honor by Oxford Dictionaries in these tumultuous times.

Jane Solomon, a linguist-in-residence at Dictionary.com, said in a recent interview that her site's choice of "mis" over "dis" was deliberate, intended to serve as a "call to action" to be vigilant in the battle against fake news, flat earthers and anti-vaxxers, among other conduits.

It's the idea of intent, whether to inadvertently mislead or to do it on purpose, that the Oakland, California-based company wanted to highlight. The company decided it would go high when others have spent much of 2018 going low.

"The rampant spread of misinformation is really providing new challenges for navigating life in 2018," Solomon told The Associated Press ahead of the word of the year announcement. "Misinformation has been around for a long time, but over the last decade or so the rise of social media has really, really changed how information is shared. We believe that understanding the concept of misinformation is vital to identifying misinformation as we encounter it in the wild, and that could ultimately help curb its impact."



This screen image released by Dictionary.com shows an entry for the word misinformation, which Dictionary.com announced as its 2018 Word of the Year.

Associated Press

In studying lookups on the site that trended this year, Dictionary noticed "our relationship with truth is something that came up again and again," she said.

For example, the word "mainstream" popped up a lot, spiking in January as the term "mainstream media," or MSM, grew to gargantuan proportions, wielded as an insult by some on the political right. Other words swirling around the same problem included a lookup surge in February for "white lie" after Hope Hicks, then White House communications director, admitted to telling a few for President Donald Trump.

The word "Orwellian" surfaced in heavy lookups in May, after a statement attributed to White House press secretary Sarah Huck-

abee Sanders accused the Chinese government of "Orwellian nonsense" in trying to impose its views on American citizens and private companies when it declared that United Airlines, American Airlines and other foreign carriers should refer to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau as part of China in public-facing materials, such as their websites. Misinformation, Solomon said, "frames what we've all been through in the last 12 months." In that vein, the site with 90 million monthly users has busied itself adding new word entries for "filter bubble," "fake news," "post-fact," "post-truth" and "homophily," among others. Other word entries on the site have been freshened to reflect timely new meanings, including "echo

chamber."

The company's runners-up for the top honor include "representation," driven by the popularity of the movies "Black Panther" and "Crazy Rich Asians," along with wins during the U.S. midterm elections for Muslim women, Native Americans and LGBTQ candidates.

But the rise of misinformation, Solomon said, stretches well beyond U.S. borders and Facebook's role in disseminating fake news and propaganda in the Cambridge Analytica scandal. The use of Facebook and other social media to incite violence and conflict was documented around the globe in 2018, she said.

"Hate speech and rumors posted to Facebook facilitated violence against Rohingya Muslims in Myan-

mar, riots started in Sri Lanka after false news set the country's Buddhist majority against Muslims, and false rumors about child kidnappers on WhatsApp led to mob violence in India," Solomon said.

Is disinformation or misinformation at play in terms of the year's most prominent conspiracy theories? Solomon noted proliferation on social media over students in the Parkland school shooting being crisis actors instead of victims of violence, and over a group of migrants from Honduras who are making their way north being funded by "rich liberals."

Elsewhere in the culture, countless podcasts and videos have spread the absurd notion of a global cover-up that the Earth is flat rather than round. The idea of "misinfodemics" has surfaced in the last several years to identify the anti-vaccination movement and other beliefs that lead to real-world health crises, Solomon said.

There are distinctions between misinformation and disinformation to be emphasized.

"Disinformation would have also been a really, really interesting word of the year this year, but our choice of misinformation was very intentional," she said. "Disinformation is a word that kind of looks externally to examine the behavior of others. It's sort of like pointing at behavior and saying, 'THIS is disinformation.'"

Photo thought to be of Vincent van Gogh is his brother

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)

— One of only two known photos of painter Vincent van Gogh turns out to most likely be an image of his brother, Theo, the Van Gogh Museum announced Thursday.

Forensic testing by experts at Amsterdam University "confirmed the high likelihood of the boy in the photograph being the 15-year-old Theo van Gogh, and not Vincent,"

the Amsterdam museum said. The museum says there is now only one known photographic portrait of the camera-shy Dutch artist, taken when he was 19. Both photos are in the museum's collection.

The photo now thought to be of Theo was first publicly presented in 1957 by researcher Mark Edo Tralbaut. A Dutch television program called into question whether it was indeed of Vincent in 2014,

prompting further research.

"This discovery means that we have rid ourselves of an illusion while gaining a portrait of Theo," said Van Gogh Museum Director Axel Rueger. "We have essentially returned to the situation as it always was up to the mistaken identification in 1957, with a single photographic portrait of the young, 19-year-old Vincent van Gogh."



This handout made available by the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, on Thursday Nov. 29, 2018, shows an image of 15 year old Theo van Gogh, originally thought to be of his brother Vincent van Gogh.

Associated Press

Michael B. Jordan, now a Hollywood heavyweight, punches up

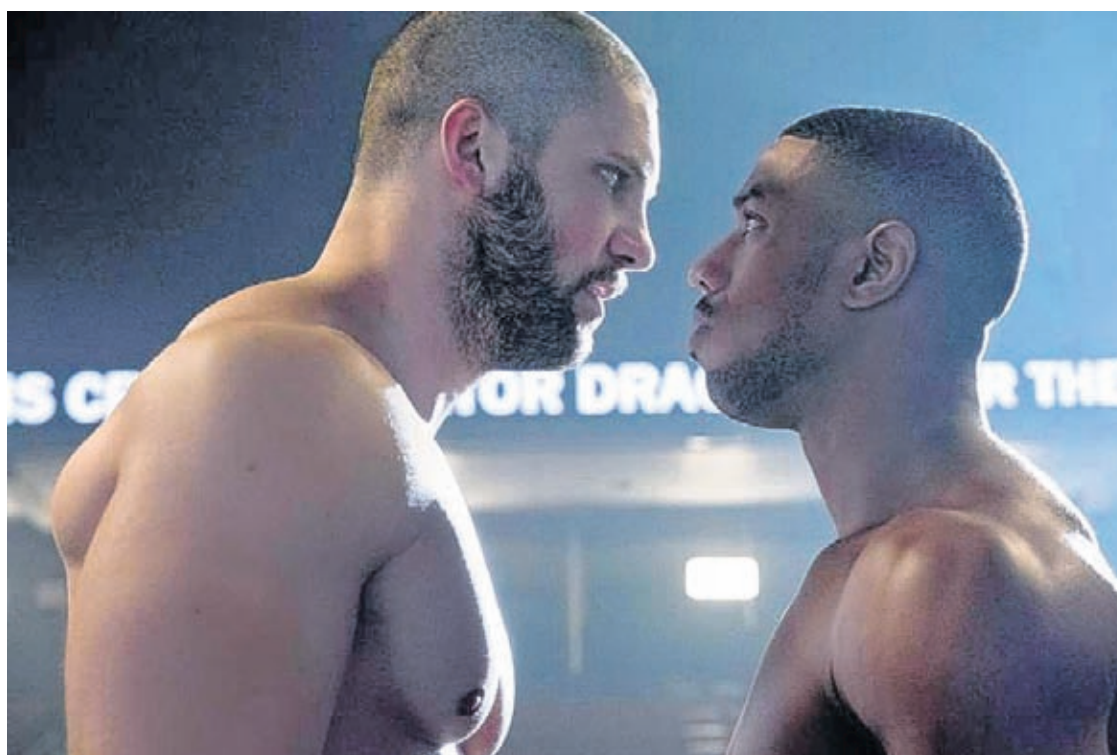
By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — If Michael B. Jordan's path to this moment was condensed and edited, it might look, appropriately, like a training montage.

Images of Jordan cutting his teeth on the Baltimore streets of "The Wire" and the Texas football fields of "Friday Night Lights," followed by hints of a soaring talent ("Red Tails," "Chronicle"), shattering breakthroughs ("Fruitvale Station") and setbacks ("Fantastic Four") before reaching, with a pair of haymakers ("Creed," "Black Panther"), heavyweight status.

Parallel to Jordan's steady rise has been the 31-year-old's expanding sway behind the scenes in Hollywood. His production company, Outlier Society Productions, was among the first to embrace the inclusion rider, adopting the pledge to seek diverse casts and crews just days after Frances McDormand referenced it at the Oscars. Jordan was also influential on a similar agreement



This image released by Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pictures / Warner Bros. Pictures shows Florian Munteanu, left, and Michael B. Jordan in a scene from "Creed II."

Associated Press

by WarnerMedia, making Warner Bros. the sole major studio thus far to sign up.

"He's always been a big-idea guy," says Ryan Coogler, who directed Jordan in "Fruitvale Station," "Creed" and "Black Panther." "He's always been conscious of his own responsibility."

"Creed II," which opens in theaters Wednesday, finds Jordan's character, Adonis Creed — like the actor, himself — adjusting to his newfound prominence: reaching the pinnacle of his profession while still having to fight for what he believes in. As Steven Caple Jr.'s boxing drama prepared to open in theaters, Jordan went door-to-door in Georgia urging people to vote in the midterm elections.

"You've been doing one thing for 20 years. Constantly working at it, trying to grow and become successful, or whatever your version of success is. And then you have a moment in time where everything seems to be coming together at the same time. Everything seems to be happening. But you live in a society, in a world that's kind of going to s---," Jordan said in a recent interview. "So to be able to use one to help the other, is something. To try to find your voice."

It's an answer with shades of Jordan's typical performance: earnest, thoughtful, tinged with pain. Then he exhales.

"I don't know, man," says Jordan. "Honestly, there's a lot going on right now and I'm trying to find my place in all of it, professionally and personally."

A big part of Jordan's quest was "Black Panther," in which he played Erik Killmonger. The part is ostensibly a villain, but in Jordan's hands, Killmonger — a wounded, fatherless warrior bent on reparations through violence — has a depth uncommon if not outright alien to comic-book films. Between Killmonger and the Wakanda leader T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman) is a larger dialogue, one fraught with history, between African identity and the African diaspora.

"Making a movie, you rarely come out the other side the same. You either grow or regress. I came out a different man," says Coogler. "The conversation that was had between T'Challa and Killmonger, what it means to be African — I didn't know I needed that movie as much as I did until after I made it. I look back and I say: 'Man, I really needed that. I needed that conversation.'"

The performance has made Jordan one of this year's leading supporting actor contenders for the Academy Awards. Coogler praises his friend's vulnerability in a complicated role. "He was one of the few African-American characters and he was carrying the weight of that cultural rep-

resentation," says Coogler. "Mike brings a lot of the empathy with him, as a person and as a performer. That's one of the things that makes him special. Almost as soon as you see him, you empathize with him."

Just as "Creed II" is opening in theaters, "Black Panther" is returning to them. On Nov. 27, it screens for free in arthouse theaters nationwide, a few months after wrapping up its \$1.35 billion run worldwide. "Black Panther," the year's biggest domestic blockbuster and most resonant cultural event, left a mark on Jordan.

"Playing Killmonger, carrying that oppression, that feeling of being a representation of the African diaspora, I felt a certain pressure and responsibility to get it right. That was a very maturing process for me," Jordan says. "To be very unapologetic, I had to play that role."

A sequel to the acclaimed 2015 spinoff (it grossed \$173.6 million worldwide on a \$35 million budget), "Creed II" was fast-tracked by MGM in part to capitalize on the success of "Black Panther" and Jordan's growing profile. Caple, whose feature debut was the 2016 indie film "The Land," had his first meeting with producers around Thanksgiving last year. By the first week of January, he was in Philadelphia getting ready to shoot.

Caple preserved and expanded upon Coogler's naturalistic approach, and the film's best scenes unlock raw intimacies outside the ring. Especially notable is the chemistry between Jordan and Tessa Thompson, who plays Adonis' girlfriend ("Mike feeds off of Tessa a lot," says Caple), and the surprising pathos of the father-son relationship between Ivan Drago (Dolph Lundgren) and Viktor Drago (Florian Munteanu). In an echo of "Rocky IV," the younger Drago is Adonis' foe this time.

Caple credits Jordan for the film's emotional authenticity. □

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SAT 2:15 | 4:20 | 6:25 | 8:30 | 10:35

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MON-FRI 5:35

SAT-SUN 3:20 | 5:35

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MON-FRI 6:00

SAT-SUN 3:15 | 6:00

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MON-THU & SUN 5:10 | 9:20

FRI-SAT 5:10 | 9:20 | 11:50

THE GRINCH

With Spanish Subtitles **PG**

MON-FRI 4:50 | 6:55

SAT-SUN 1:10 | 2:45 | 4:50 | 6:55

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Teddy Riley readies 'emotional' return to Apollo in Harlem

By MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Teddy Riley is on the brink of tears. Happy tears.

The singer and producer behind hits for Michael Jackson says now that he's just days away from his big show at the Apollo Theater — a return to his hometown in Harlem after more than 20 years — he's struck with emotion, and fans will see that onstage. "I get really emotional because I'm in such disbelief. I'm from the projects, man. To make it out of the projects, not too many people could say that," said Riley, who grew up near the Apollo. "It's going to be tears of joy."

Riley, 51, spearheaded the New Jack Swing era in music in the '80s and '90s, bringing on a new and hit-making sound that dominated radio and the charts. He sang in the successful groups Guy and Blackstreet — winning a Grammy for

the R&B classic "No Diggity" — and also shined behind the scenes as a producer and songwriter, co-producing Jackson's "Danger-

ous" album and also crafting hits like Johnny Kemp's "Just Got Paid," Wreckx-N-Effect's "Rump Shaker" and Hi-Five's "I Like the Way (The

Kissing Game)," which hit No. 1 on the pop charts.

Riley, along with R&B maven Keith Sweat, will headline two shows Sunday at

the Apollo, dubbed "The Kings and Queens of New Jack Swing." It will also feature Doug E. Fresh, Kool Moe Dee, Al B. Sure, MC Lyte as well as members of Guy and Blackstreet.

"I'm performing around the corner from where I was raised. And all the guys can say that — Kool Moe Dee, Doug E. Fresh and Keith Sweat," Riley said. "I get emotional, and I may be emotional on that stage. Some of the things that will happen is going to bring emotions. But it's going to bring happiness. New Jack Swing always brought happiness, and that's what we're about."

Riley has also produced songs for Lady Gaga, Bobby Brown, Heavy D and the Boyz, and Robin Thicke. He said he used to watch famous performers go inside the back of the Apollo as a kid from his school, which inspired him to become a musician. □



In this July 8, 2018 file photo, Teddy Riley performs at the 2018 Essence Festival in New Orleans.

Associated Press

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